

Experience may be hard but we claim its gifts because they are real, even though our feet bleed on its stones.

– Mary Parker Follett

Topflight is a lecture series at Nashville Works by corner office executives relating the private lessons they have learned on the way up the corporate ladder. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our participants to meet some of the most accomplished leaders in the area and to have a conversation with them about what they have discovered about life while pursuing their personal and professional aspirations.

Message

Top executives are routinely consulted for their secrets to business and leadership success. It's an enormous market with tens of thousands of books and an endless stream of articles expounding on the habits of the highly successful and giving fodder to hopeful managers anxious to gain a competitive edge in their career.

Although performance tips from the C-Suite can be extremely valuable, the focus of Topflight is more personal. We want to know what is behind the professional reputation and public image of society's high performers.

These testimonies are intended to: (a) help set straight common misconceptions about power

by illustrating the heavy burdens that come with the territory, (b) break the myth that income – beyond a level to meet one's basic needs – is the pathway to happiness, and (c) illustrate how questions of personal purpose influences important life decisions.

Speakers

Topflight speakers are the top executive at their company, organization, or institution. They are CEOs who run major organizations, presidents of high ranking universities, executive directors of national nonprofits, pastors of mega churches and entrepreneurs who have made a name for themselves in the world of privately held companies.

Commitment

Given the heavy demand on their time, Topflight speakers are scheduled for just one presentation a year. In addition, they are invited to an annual Topflight event that gives an insider's look at the experiences of Tennessee prisoners, reviews the accomplishments of the organization for the year, and provides an opportunity for speakers to compare notes on their experiences with this initiative.

Schedule

Classes at Nashville Works are Monday thru Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Topflight Lectures can be scheduled at anytime that is convenient to the speaker during these hours.

Location

Nashville Works is located on the edge of the Music Row district just two blocks east of Buddy Killen Circle at 1200 Division Street.

For directions, [click here](#)

Audience

Topflight lectures are intended to be intimate with an audience of just 12-14 people in Nashville and (by video link) 12-14 in Chattanooga. All are former offenders that have been carefully selected for a work readiness course and represent a variety of educational, occupational, cultural and criminal backgrounds.

Format

The format for Topflight programs is a 20-minute prepared podium style lecture followed by a 40-minute casual discussion with participants.

Webcasting

With speaker permission, the podium portion of the presentation is streamed on our YouTube

Channel and advertised on the our website. Our intention in doing this is to highlight Nashville's executive talent and the innovative work of Nashville Works while developing a library of material for future reference.

Chattanooga Endeavors

Chattanooga Endeavors, Inc. (CEi) is a publicly supported charity based in Chattanooga Tennessee with a mission to improve public safety by restoring former offenders to productive roles in society. With a special emphasis on recently released prisoners, we prepare former offenders for work, support them in their job search and offer limited opportunities for remunerative work training through an alternative staffing program.

Nashville Works

Nashville Works is a prisoner reentry initiative of the Department of Corrections funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The initiative uses an alternative staffing model to provide transitional employment to men returning to Davidson County from Charles Bass prison.

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