

## Time Management and Productivity Expert Laura Stack Discusses Fostering an Attitude of Continuous Improvement



DENVER, Colorado, December 4, 2012 – A commitment to continuous improvement is a core concept when it comes to mastering productivity. Time management and productivity expert Laura Stack believes wholeheartedly in this philosophy; she says it doesn't require an unrelenting effort to keep getting better at a task, a job, or a career. The desire to improve can actually displace the element of struggle.

In her latest blog titled "<u>Every Day, in Every Way: Fostering an Attitude of Continuous Improvement,</u>" Stack discusses the concept of pushing the envelope in the course of going about one's daily tasks. Making sure one's reach always exceeds their grasp is all about attitude, Stack says, and those who make the commitment to keep improving do just that, bit by bit.

"An attitude of continuous improvement represents one of the cornerstones of productivity," Stack says. "After all, the better you become at something, the less work it requires."

In business, when someone makes the decision that good enough is good enough, the incentive to try harder is lost. And those businesses are the first to suffer when a competitor decides to do a better job, Stack says.

They're also the first to give up when the going gets tough.

There's much to be gained in practicing self-improvement, and formatting one's attitude to succeed is as easy as reciting the vowels: A, E, I, O, U.

- **1. Act on change.** Change is a given in business, and individuals need to evolve along with marketplace conditions and technology, or face failure.
- **2. Emphasize teamwork.** Personal improvement is important; however, teamwork is critical, because it offers the best opportunity for aligning with the organization's goals and strategies.

**3. Innovate and Test.** In addition to acting on change, Stack recommends continuously tweaking each aspect of the workflow process in an effort to improve.

"The 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' attitude doesn't belong here," Stack says. "But don't change just to change.

"Test each innovation thoroughly to make sure it actually improves on what it replaces."

**4. Organize.** It's impossible to continuously improve when an individual is unable to keep track of everything.

"Create simple, intuitive filing systems for your information," Stack says. "Document each process so new team members can easily get up to speed, and make sure everything has its place, both physically and procedurally."

**5.** Unleash creativity. Stack recommends encouraging creative thinking at all levels and scales, brainstorming improvement ideas with team members even when things seem to work fine, and listening to their ideas.

"Something as simple as realigning machines on a shop floor may generate substantial savings and simplify workflow," she says.

Any organization that fails to practice continuous improvement sabotages itself in the long run.

"Keep your eyes open and keep stretching your boundaries," Stack says. "Always mind your P's and Q's as you move forward, never forgetting to dot those I's and cross those T's, and juggle your vowels along the way."

For information on fostering improvement and productivity, visit <u>TheProductivityPro.com</u> website, Email <u>Laura@TheProductivityPro.com</u>, or call 303-471-7401.

## **About Laura Stack:**

<u>Laura Stack</u> is a time management and productivity expert who has been speaking and writing about human potential and peak performance since 1992. She has implemented employee productivity improvement programs at Wal-Mart, Cisco Systems, UBS, Aramark, and Bank of America. Stack presents keynotes and seminars internationally for leaders, entrepreneurs, salespeople, and professional services firms on improving output, lowering stress, and saving time in the workplace.

The Productivity Pro®, Inc., a time management firm specializing in high-stress environments, Stack is the bestselling author of five books: "What to do When There's Too Much to do" (2012); "SuperCompetent" (2010); "The Exhaustion Cure" (2008); "Find More Time" (2006); "Leave the Office Earlier" (2004). The 2011-2012 President of the National Speakers Association and recipient of the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation, Stack has served as a spokesperson for Microsoft, 3M, Xerox, and Office Depot and is the creator of The Productivity Pro® planner by Day-Timer. Widely regarded as one of the leading experts in the field of employee productivity and workplace issues, Stack has been featured nationally on the CBS Early Show and CNN, and in USA Today and the New York Times.