

Practicing “everyday excellence” and making connections

By Julie Zuehlke

Where ever the moment, what ever the role, **Yvonne Kinney-Hockert** embraces and encourages excellence in others and expects it of herself. If she looks familiar, that might be the result of her being involved, totally immersed, seemingly all at once and in every place at once. She makes the most of every moment and even with her tendency to stay in perpetual motion, she makes connections.

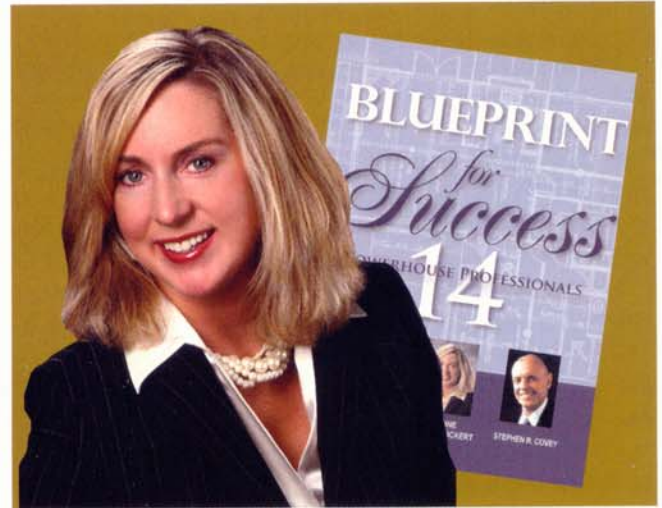
Connecting people to ideas and then ideas into goals and then goals into accomplishments – that best describes Yvonne’s gift, her talent, her art. She refined the ability into a highly developed skill, and transformed it into a successful business, Consulting Solutions.

While it might not seem like “making connections” could become a career, or even a job, Yvonne Kinney-Hockert has made it her life’s work as well as her avocation. She pursues excellence as a passion and shares it with others. Her ability to define, recognize, and celebrate excellence finds its roots in her genuine sense of curiosity. Her quest for excellence carries a visible trait -- she actually, physically “leans in to learn more.”

She might lean in as a community leader to learn or offer a perspective of what she sees next in this growing community and region. It could show up in meeting the needs of a client. It could come naturally at the dinner table with her husband and two boys when they describe “What was your most and least favorite thing about today?” as a means to share with one another to strengthen family relationships. Making connections and deepening them with family gives Yvonne her greatest delight.

Growing up as the youngest of eight children, she became a keen observer of how personalities, attitudes, behaviors, and work habits impact daily life and overall quality of living and working. At an early age, she developed the ability to learn from others’ attributes and activities. She also honed the ability to learn from others’ mistakes.

Her innate interest in leadership along with her quest for learning and sharing serve her well as a professional. When she makes presentations and shares anecdotes, her stories sparkle with memories of moving from the metropolitan area and starting her consulting business.



She shares her trials and tribulations, the joys and rewards, the challenges, frustrations, accomplishments – all of it. And she presents them with an excitement that rings with an appreciation that all experiences can provide pathways to everyday excellence.

This sharing provides her listeners with the opportunity to learn more about themselves by example, not just to shine the spotlight on herself. Her intense interest in others shines the enlightenment back on them as she inspires others to remember their own dreams, goals, aspirations, and even the struggles along the pathway.

Her pathway has given her many experiences and even many “titles” – national speaker, author, consultant, business coach, wife, mother, daughter, friend, and a practitioner of everyday excellence. She shares it all willingly as a connector of people, ideas, work, and goals. She has made it her business and her quest to “grow people” so they can “grow their business.”

One beneficiary of her mentor role describes her this way: “She’ll know about the job you have and the business you want to start or enhance. She’ll share a business card or two of others with you and ask if sharing yours would be OK, too. Of course, you are then surprised when a call or Email comes from a complete stranger saying, “Hi, I got your information from Yvonne Kinney-Hockert. She thought we might be able to connect and” *DW*