

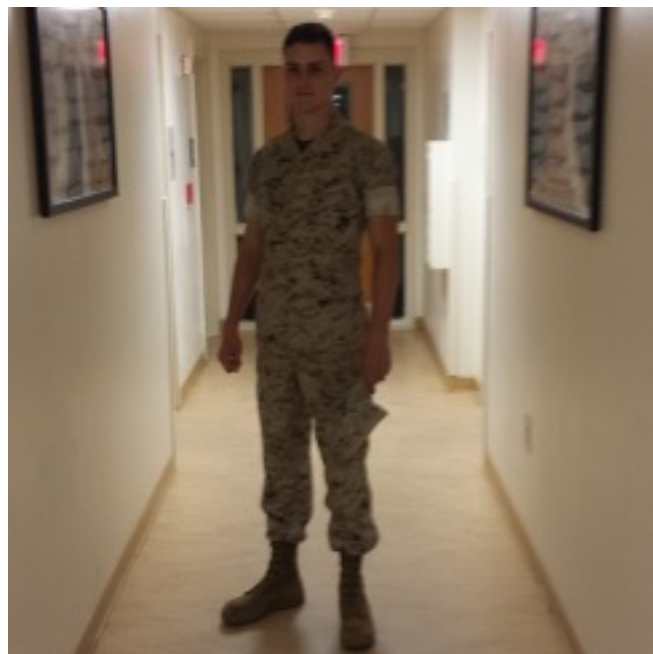
Title: "From Military service to Boardrooms: The Journey of Lucas's Career Transformation »

Choosing your educational path: a universal dilemma

In the world of careers, there are those who follow a linear path, steadily advancing within their chosen fields, and then there are those who dare to redefine their trajectory, embarking on a transformative journey that challenges not only their professional identity but also their very sense of self. Choosing one's educational and career path is a universal dilemma that transcends borders, cultures, and backgrounds. In a world where the choices we make can significantly shape our future, people from all walks of life grapple with the crucial decision of what to study and which profession to pursue. In the United States, this pursuit of purpose is a journey shared by millions. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, recent data indicates that nearly 70% of high school graduates enroll in some form of higher education. However, the decision is far from straightforward, as students face not only the challenge of selecting the right field but also the mounting concerns about the cost of education, job market dynamics, and the changing landscape of work in the 21st century.

Lucas Airport, a 28-year-old with a resolute spirit and a background in the military, exemplifies the latter. Lucas's story is one of reinvention and the pursuit of newfound passions, and it serves as a beacon of inspiration for anyone contemplating a career switch.

With his former life centered around the rigors of military service and a degree in radiology technology, Lucas might not appear as the typical candidate for a role in corporate communication and business. However, his decision to re-enter the world of academia and reskill himself to pursue a career vastly different from his past is a testament to the transformative power of higher education and the unwavering pursuit of one's true calling.



Lucas in Pensacola, Florida in his 2015 military service

For Lucas, the road to change was not easy, but it was undeniably worthwhile. After high school, he attended Peen State New Kensington majoring in electromechanical engineering technology.

«I stayed for two semesters before I came to the realization that college is very expensive and I didn't want to have to pay student loans the rest of my life. I left class one day and went to talk to a recruiter for the United States Marine Corps » - Lucas

He had spent several years serving his country, deployed to foreign lands, and tackling challenges most of us can only imagine. While his time in the military had instilled in him a deep sense of discipline, leadership, and a profound appreciation for teamwork, Lucas sensed that there was more he could achieve.

« I left for Marine Corps boot camp in 2014 and trained for three months at Parris island South Carolina recruit training depot. It was the longest and hardest three months of my life and you could never pay me enough money to do that again ! » - Lucas

A second life ahead, a new future in view

Often, an experience is the trigger for getting to know yourself a little better, discovering new horizons and changing your life. How many of us have ever wanted to discover a new environment ?

Lucas realized after his military service and his interest in engineering that he could resume his studies in the field. After resuming his studies and graduating in radiology technology, he is now on his way to a medical career at Forbes Medical Center hospital in the emergency room and operating room, where he will be performing X-rays. For him, this was an exciting career, but the arrival of Covid-19 was not to be overlooked.

Covid-19 : a pandemic that has turned our habits and our lives upside down

In the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic, our world was confronted with unprecedented challenges that forced us to adapt, reflect, and reevaluate our lives. For many, the outbreak wasn't just a health crisis; it was a pivotal moment that prompted them to reconsider their career paths. The pandemic compelled individuals to question their priorities, pursue their passions, and make profound shifts in their professional trajectories.

« This is whenever COVID-19 hit and everything was closing down except the hospitals. I had to work through the COVID-19 pandemic which was very rough. This ultimately made me decide that I did not want to work in the medical field for the rest of my life and I still had some of my free college from my military service. » - Lucas

In the words of many like him, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic marked a tumultuous period where healthcare workers bore the brunt of the crisis. With hospitals standing as the last line of defense, they faced unprecedented pressures, grueling hours, and constant risk.

However, it was not just the challenges they encountered; it was the realization that life is too short to remain confined to a career that no longer resonated with their aspirations. As the world grappled with the pandemic's impact, many healthcare workers began to reevaluate their professional paths. This shift in perspective and their ensuing career choices were part of a broader trend, as countless individuals across different sectors reconsidered the pursuit of their passions and dreams in the wake of the pandemic's wake-up call.

Time to change roles again: corporate communications takes center stage



Lucas at Internship in 2023

« I decided to resign from my position at the hospital and return to Penn State New Kensington to receive a bachelor's degree in corporate communications. » - Lucas

After many years and many experiences, Lucas found that his true passion lay in the intricacies of corporate communication and the dynamics of the business world. He began to explore the possibilities of his new aspiration, researching academic programs and speaking to professionals in the field.

His journey towards a brighter future began when he enrolled in a Bachelor's program specializing in corporate communication, a field that would provide him with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the complex terrain of business communication, public relations, and strategic leadership. Lucas's pursuit of higher education was far from a mere academic exercise – it was a testament to his commitment to personal growth and a testament to the belief that one can always redefine their path.

« I've enjoyed being back in college as the communications career path seems to be much more interesting to me than health care was. I went with corporate communications because it is a very broad degree that can be applied to many different jobs as long as you work your resume around it. I am slightly older than most students but it hasn't affected my classes in any way » - Lucas

Stay tuned as we delve deeper into Lucas's experiences, the challenges he's faced, and the lessons he's learned during his remarkable journey of career transformation. His story is not

just about pursuing education; it's about discovering one's true calling and embarking on a new adventure, one step at a time.