

# NO EXCUSES

*Only by seizing the moment can you make the life you want for yourself.*

BY NEAL WHITTEN, PMP, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

I meet with thousands of people a year. They are bright, well-educated, sincere, hard-working, high-potential, good and decent project professionals looking to move their careers forward—just like you. What's frustrating is that most people I encounter don't believe in themselves as much as I believe in them. Consequently, they fall short in being the leaders that their position requires. They look for all the reasons why they can't be the best, blaming their genetics, their upbringing, their boss, their situation or "the system." They believe that great success is for others but not for them—and that thinking holds them back.

You can rise to the top of whatever hill you choose to climb, as long as you imagine and dream you can.

I would like to plant a thought that just might change the rest of your life.

Consider this: What are the odds that *you* would be here today? The mere chance of your conception alone—the unique genetic combination that makes you *you*—were less than one in a million. Unlikely, but you are here!

In other words, if you truly want to see something remarkable, look in a mirror. The fact that you exist today means that you have overcome far worse odds than any lotto on this planet.

No matter your spiritual beliefs, there's one thing none of us can refute: You are here now; you own this moment. You have this one shot throughout all of eternity. Why, then, would you want to blow it? Why would you want to believe that you cannot make a difference on your projects and in your organizations (or with your family, community or even world)? You must step up and take charge.

Leadership is not about the ability of those around you to lead. It's about your ability to lead *despite* everything happening around you. Why go through your



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job—and your life—being too soft, afraid to assert yourself, playing the victim, not demonstrating the courage to make things happen? Why would you want to live in others' shadows instead of creating your own shadow? You have the wherewithal to achieve what is important to you. As Henry Ford said, "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you are right."

Living your dream is a whole lot more exciting than just dreaming your life. This is your moment. It's yours to seize! Of course you can make things happen—if only you choose to do so. *PM*

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