Doing a little at a time is the best way to reach your big ambitious goals

By May Busch

We often associate “big wins” like closing an important deal for your company or a job promotion you’ve been working toward with career success and satisfaction. But as you focus on the big wins, it’s easy to lose sight of the small wins along the way that mark your progress toward achieving those big wins. And that’s a mistake.

Big wins take time and hard work, so when you neglect your small wins it can feel like you’re not making progress even when you are. Like hiking up a mountain but feeling like the summit is no closer at lunchtime than when you set out.

Not only is this discouraging, it can even derail your progress toward those bigger goals.

Winning as progress

Instead of waiting until the big win to celebrate, why not reframe “winning” to mean progress? This means looking for milestones that represent progress toward your big win. Celebrating each progress step as a “small win” builds positive momentum, the kind that keeps you (and your team) motivated to move forward.

Small wins are everywhere once you learn to spot them. Like finally getting a call back from a client that you’ve been calling and...
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Mentors give back through network

Tara Boucher, ’99 MS in technology, signed up to be a mentor after establishing her career working with the Starbucks corporate office, Visa and USAA because she loves ASU and working with students. She says the impact is felt on both sides of the mentoring relationship.

“The feeling of giving back is great,” she says.

Boucher, who lives in San Antonio, connects with students and alumni remotely.

Boucher says her own career has benefitted from mentorship and she has noticed that students she’s met tend to not know their own potential, so she enjoys encouraging mentees to get on-the-job experience and persist beyond rejection.

Boucher says it’s important for people to have someone to bounce ideas off of.

“When it doesn’t always seem appropriate at work to open up and seek advice, so it’s great to be able to offer that to someone,” she says.

Apply to become a mentor at mentorship.asu.edu.

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