

THE MENTORING SWITCHBOARD



April 2009

Nick Noorani Speaks at ISS

Naeem "Nick" Noorani began like so many others seeking a better life for his family in Canada. He moved to Canada from Dubai in 1998 and through his passion to help skilled immigrants, he has evolved to become an advocate for immigrant rights. Nick works with the different levels of government with the intention of improving services for immigrants. The other roles that he has undertaken are publisher of Canadian Immigrant Magazine and speaker. He converses with employers about workplace diversity and with immigrants about success and determination.

On Friday, April 17th, Nick kindly spoke to some of ISSofBC's clients and staff about the "Seven Secrets to Success for Canadian Immigrants." He shared the ways that made him successful in Canada:

- Learn English*
- Never Give up*
- Embrace Canada*
- Have a Plan B*
- Move Out of Ethnic Silos*
- Take Risks*
- Volunteer*
- Find a Mentor*
- Network*

Nick states that his message is positivity. He believes that the cornerstone of his success has been his positive outlook and confidence in himself. His advice centres on the principles of staying positive, moving out of your comfort zone, and having big aspirations.

He is an engaging and personable speaker who blends grand and sometimes cavalier statements like, "Success by any means necessary," with sincere stories about his own immigrant experience. It is the balance that he achieves with his presentation that makes his advice relevant and worthwhile. He has been there and he knows what he is talking about.

Nick's advice is certainly useful for our mentees. However, Nick's advice could also be helpful to you, our mentors. Mentoring is a powerful vehicle that helps lead your mentee to success, and you can incorporate Nick's advice to create a well-rounded mentoring relationship. Help your mentee build confidence and stay positive. Develop goals, set standards for acceptable risks, and discuss the rewards that may follow. Suggest activities to mentees that help them experience something different, activities that ease them out of their comfort zones.

Nick's advice can be helpful in creating an effective mentorship. If you have not already done so, think of the ways that you can incorporate Nick's "Secrets to Success" into your own mentoring experience.



Nick Noorani speaks to guests at ISSofBC's Terminal office.

Secrets to Success for Canadian Immigrants

Learn English

It is difficult to be successful if one cannot communicate in one of the official languages.

Never Give up

Stay positive and surround yourself with positive people.

Embrace Canada

Canada is a beautiful country with much to offer. Live the different experiences and grow to love and appreciate the country that has welcomed you.

Have a Plan B

Be sure to have a Plan A, but also have a Plan B that focuses on your transferable skills.

Move Out of Ethnic Silos

Vancouver is a city that has representatives from around the globe. Get out of your comfort zone and encourage yourself to learn about other cultures.

Take Risks

Believe in yourself and do not be afraid to take calculated risks.

Volunteer

This is an effective way for you to gain Canadian experience that local employers require.

Mentorship

Seek out individuals who have experience and learn from their advice.

Networking

Meet other people and build your network. They may come in handy in the future.

Events

Carnaval do Rio Dinner and Dance Show

Saturday, May 9, 2009
Our Lady of Fatima Hall
315 Walker Street, Coquitlam, BC

Come and enjoy an unforgettable evening with an explosion of colours, rhythms and energy. You will enjoy delicious and authentic Brazilian foods, a wonderful show and a lot of dancing! Featuring ACHE BRAZIL Dance Company that will bring us the traditions, music and culture of Brazil!

Tickets \$40.00. To reserve your tickets please call the parish at 604-936-2525 or Janette Carbonel at 604-944-4069

ISSofBC's New Faces of Vancouver

May 15-16, 2009
Centre A
2 West Hastings St., Vancouver

ISSofBC's New Faces of Vancouver photography exhibit will feature photos that explore Vancouver's increasing diversity. The event promotes an appreciation of the city's multicultural spirit and connects newcomers to the community with long-term residents.

Visitors to the exhibit are encouraged to reflect on their role in promoting cultural awareness and openness within their communities.

<http://www.issbc.org/newfaces/index.html>