

-If you could have dinner with a historical figure, whom would it be and why?

I would have dinner with Jesus. The reason is not only is he my Lord and Savior, but the time that he spent on the earth was truly phenomenal. He practiced empowered leadership and I think would have been a tremendous CEO.

-Whom do you most admire in business? or what living person do you most admire?

The person I admire most is my father. My father is an American citizen by birth, but went back to his native Czechoslovakia at age two. He returned to this country just before WWII started. Starting the fifth grade not knowing a word of English, he attended public school until such time as his family needed him to work. He never graduated from high school, but later got his GED, yet he is the most well read, educated man. He has imparted many pieces of wisdom to me that has helped to forge my character.

-How would you sum up your business philosophy?

The philosophy my father always taught me was “Carpe Diem” He would tell me God put you in this very place, during this very time for a very specific reason. Go seize this day and make us both proud. While I still embrace that, my philosophy has evolved to also include, “Carpe Manana” (which means seize tomorrow). I try to do today, that which will make a difference tomorrow. I think this is true for both our business as well as personal lives.

-Give me your elevator speech for RTI Insurance Services.

RTI insurance Services, is a buyer of insurance for individuals and corporations. We have the ability to custom tailor your protection to your exact needs and budget.

-What job would we be surprised to learn you've had in the past?

Digging septic tanks one summer. It was a hot and smelly job. The good part was, when I returned to college the next semester, I was even more motivated to do well in my studies.

-What do you spend too much time doing? Too little time?

I spend too much time trying to make every project I work on perfect. Sometimes, a good project today is better than a perfect project tomorrow. The thing I spend too little time in is not using our business as a ministry platform to try to reach out and help people and our community.

-What do you love about Sarasota County?

Obviously, I love the weather. But the thing I enjoy most is the true partnership that I think exists between all business sectors in which we forge together for each other's common good.

-What was your biggest missed opportunity?

My biggest missed opportunity is when I "skim" through the day and my interactions with people, in a robotic fashion because I am single mindedly focused on the task at hand rather than take the extra time to truly connect with each person as a unique person

-Doing business in Sarasota County is....fill in the blank

Great!

-What do you consider to be the biggest business climate issue in Sarasota County, and if you were king for a day, how would you solve it?

One of the long term issues will be that of maintaining controlled sustainable growth that includes the proper diversification and mix of individuals and business to the region. If I were King for a day, I could not solve it in a day. It can only be done through strategic planning, design, and all of us working together to make our community the best it can be.

-What do you want people to know about RTI Insurance Services?

RTI is the Insurance firm of choice for your needs. Our size provides us leverage to design programs and products for most every type of need. Our culture provides a feel that when you are with us you are with family. It's the best of both worlds for our clients, an aggressive and progressive firm that gets it done for you.

-Has the EDC been helpful to you and RTI Insurance Services, and, if so, how?

The EDC continues to be an invaluable resource for us. Their accomplishments represent the hard work and dedication of many people. We are appreciative of their extra efforts to us and the business community.