

Meet Jevon Powell

Introduction by Connie Miller

Today I have the pleasure of introducing Dr. Jevon Powell, classification business consultants and services.

What I realize about Jevon is that he makes things happen. When he decides to do something, he perseveres. He jokes that he is not as smart as he is hard headed. His wife Darcy Birkeland, who is with us today, agrees.

For example, Jevon once announced to his family that when he grew up he wanted to be a psychologist living in Seattle. That was at his eighth birthday party.

Jevon was born and raised in Fresno, but his grandparents, Roy and Beth Morse, lived in West Seattle. "Seattle has always been my happy place," he told me.

Helping others is a family value. His dad is a retired psychologist, and his mother is a lifelong leader of non-profits. His grandfather, a Rotarian, introduced Jevon to this club in the 80's.

Jevon says, "Those who can, must!" He grew up doing volunteer work with his mom, rose to state leadership in Jaycees, and served on several non-profit boards, including nine years with the Seattle Children's Museum. Now he brings his energy to Seattle Rotary.

During his undergraduate work at Chico State, Jevon felt unfocused. His dad blamed it on too much beer and backpacking. Jevon needed direction. He took a year off and conducted informational job interviews. He met a consulting psychologist and realized "that's what I want to do." Consulting to companies would allow him to have a broader impact than a clinical psychology practice. Thirteen years and three degrees later, he called up the same consulting psychologist and said, "I've got my doctorate - now what?"

So, he left New York City and moved to the Bay Area to learn consulting. After four years and countless air miles, he realized his checkbook was full, but his datebook was empty. He switched gears again, moved to Seattle in 2001 to launch his consulting practice, and soon met his wife. They have active and fun 10-year old twin boys.

When he came to Seattle, he joined a boutique consulting firm, then became a partner, and now owns the company. You see the trend?

As a consulting psychologist, Jevon sees his mission as helping leaders engage employees. He does this through executive coaching, team building, and change



management. His ideal client is a small or mid-size organization that wants to develop stronger leaders.

When I asked what he is looking forward to, he said he wants to help his children thrive and his business expand, work with brilliant colleagues as the science of psychology evolves, and continue playing blues guitar with his band.

Please thank Jevon's proposers, Kathryn Williams and Corinne Cavanaugh, and welcome Jevon to our club!