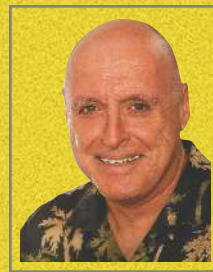


# The Extra Point

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1040 Eric Chong – Getting Kids Ready For Work and Life

Today, a story about the right information, in the hands of the right person, who makes it available to the right audience — and you end up with the right results. I'm Jerry Roberts, with something that gets me excited and I hope you'll feel the same — next on The Extra Point.

When people talk about generations these days, you hear a lot of negativity about the Millennials. They're being blamed for all kinds of things, including putting Biden in office, as well as *The Great Resignation*.

Generation Z doesn't escape, with employers calling them flaky and disengaged. It's tough to find good news when it comes to the age group that includes workers 18-27.

Well, I've got some. This past Tuesday, in my weekly WorkZone article in the Guam Daily Post, I discussed an eight-point plan that anyone can use to become more charismatic.

A GCC instructor, Eric Chong, saw value in the article and he presented it to his students at Simon Sanchez High School. Chong leads a class of seniors in a hospital industry program for lodging management.

They discussed the article in class, and many would say that it made them think about where they stood in the area of charisma, and what that meant for them.

Mr. Chong offered the students the opportunity to send me an email message, giving me their thoughts about the topic.

The first one hit my inbox about 11:15 on Wednesday morning. In the next five hours, I received almost 20 messages from his students. I read each carefully, and was impressed with how articulate these young women and men are. I spent most of the evening responding.

They gave clear, concise, and sincere opinions and thoughts about the subject matter. They related the issues discussed to their lives and some of the challenges they face.

It's easy to tell that these students find great value in this class, and perhaps many will look for employment in the visitor industry upon graduation. It will be, in large part, due to the inspiration provided by Eric Chong.

As we led off today, the *right information*. I'm honored that he felt my article would provide a valuable discussion for his students. That said, I didn't invent charisma. I simply have strong opinions about it.

That information then gets into the *right hands*. Eric and I have communicated frequently over the past few years, and he's constantly on the lookout for information that can help his class get further and do better.

Every kid should have someone like him as a teacher or advisor. I think of him as a D.O.E., a dispenser of enthusiasm. There's no doubt in my mind that his students would tell you the same thing.

The information is given to the *right audience*, a group of young people who are preparing to make an important decision on whether to continue their formal education, or enter the workforce.

They're engaged, and definitely interested in their future — just as you and I were when we were that age and facing the next stage of life.

The *right results* are that these young people were turned on by the conversation, and how it can be useful to their development.

(Con't.)

With all due respect to the people who decide on what curriculum to give our kids, life skills and work skills, and a better understanding of what to expect beyond school is sorely needed — and we need to offer it before a child enters his/her senior year.

We're worried that the perpetual brain drain will continue, with smart kids like these leaving Guam for better opportunities...just as so many have done before them.

If you want to give them a reason to stay, and if you want them job-ready when they walk in your door, things need to change at the school level. We need more inspiring educators like Eric Chong, open to providing their students with lessons from the real world of work.

Everybody wins when that happens.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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