SUCCESS STORY – Robert Gray Mitchem

“There is no underlying doubt about what I want to do”

In September of 2010, Robert Gray Mitchem came to the Career Transitions Center (CTC) with a strong educational background (a master’s in Architecture and BA in French), real-world experience in the U.S. Naval Reserve and as an accomplished author, published in French with a handle on blogging and writing fiction. He also came to the CTC in a similar situation as a lot of current people – he had been laid off from his full-time job as a project designer/manager and safety officer for a year. Robert needed some help determining his next professional move.

Staying true to his philosophical and inquisitive nature, Robert sought to clarify his vision for his career. He started by participating in the CTC’s free half-hour Intake Session (link: http://www4.uwm.edu/sce/course.cfm?id=19122 CTC). Through this evaluation, professionals quickly recognized Robert’s talents and skill set and determined ways he could target his job search by focusing on is natural passions.

Robert appreciated the feedback and craved additional insight into his next career steps – so he went on to register for the Enhanced Career Coaching Package (link: http://www4.uwm.edu/sce/course.cfm?id=11082). After the staff’s carefully evaluation process, he was matched with CTC Career Coach David Ferrie.

“Gray wanted to set his priorities,” says Ferrie. “He has a book in him and he wants to put it on paper. But life is almost always more complicated than that, and there were things that needed attention before he could move forward. We were able to define what he needed to do first, second and third to reach his goals.”

Throughout the five-month coaching journey, Robert had the openness that allowed him to try new things like taking the Myers Briggs Type Indicator - though he’d taken it already in 1996. But things change. He’d changed.

Previously an INFP, Robert discovered he had transformed into an INTJ – a significant change in his personality type and the types of positions that suited him. And if you are not familiar with the MBTI, the CTC can help you with this eye-opening personality assessment. http://www4.uwm.edu/sce/course.cfm?id=18442

Since his CTC experience, Robert has gained the trust and confidence to reach goals he never previously considered. As a result, in just 5 months he landed a job in transportation for Milwaukee County.

In his new position, he can blend his writing, driving and designing skills with his interest in the world around him.

“Today, there is no underlying doubt about what I want to do,” says Robert. “I am comfortable with who I am and what I do. This process has been helpful in confirming that.”