



2.4 STREAMPRENEUR

The idea for STREAMpreneur came from reading Jen Griswold's book Mission Entrepreneur: Applying Lessons from Military Life to Create Success in Business Startups. I started reading this book a few years back when I was first starting to contemplate the idea of starting my own business out of necessity. I was a teacher and had experience working with youth for a notable amount of years so while I felt confident in my job, I had no idea what it would take to create and run a business that would utilise my academic knowledge, work experience and life goals. Let's just say, I had no idea where to start.

And so it happened that I was led to Jen Griswold's book. This one right here. I remember considering buying several books at the time but I ended up gravitating towards her book for many reasons but mainly because of the way she went about her book combined relatability (to my situation) and directiveness (determined to provide direction). To express this more simplistically she managed to balance validating feelings and providing practical advice and ideas while being encouraging and uplifting. The fact that she was a woman who knew all too well the struggle of juggling so many things at the same time as an added bonus as she made me feel represented.

The element that sealed the deal for me and I took the leap of financially investing in the book as I purchased it both in Kindle and paperback format was the strong sense of service towards others that it invoked. It was very community oriented. Not only did that resonate with me immensely but I felt this extreme feeling of relief of almost "finally someone understands me" Because of all that, I felt I could trust the information she was relaying in the book. I was not disappointed. It is a great beginner's book into entrepreneurship which is why I highly recommend you give it a try. I still to this day find myself going back to it.

And so, this brings us to the origin story of how the term STREAMpreneur came to be. At the beginning of the book Jen Griswold coins the term "Milpreneur".

Military + Entrepreneur

Milpreneur

/mil-pruh-nur/

Def: a veteran, military spouse, or members of the military community striving to build a business

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LIVE . GIVE . SERVE . GROW

And so, in this module we have adapted her idea to

STREAM + Entrepreneur

STREAMpreneur

/stream-pruh-nur/

Def: a person who invests in themselves by developing their transversal skills through STREAM while striving to build a business or thrive in the work environment.

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LIVE . GIVE . SERVE . GROW





So, the question becomes, could you be a STREAMpreneur? And if we work with youth and hope to support them to become STREAMpreneur then should we not consider becoming STREAMpreneur ourselves? After all, our job already entails half of the STREAMpreneur definition that is the “Live, Give, Serve and Grow” part.

Having said that though, that does not mean that you need to start your own business. If you look at the definition again you will see that it leaves more than enough room to include people who want to thrive in the work environment, in general, or whatever setting that might be in order to “LIVE. GIVE. SERVE. GROW”

Therefore, in the context of youth work what you could do is take this journey together with the youth members that you are working with, experiment together, and learn together. All you need to do is be there to support, observe and facilitate the process.

So once again more than anything this module is an invitation to consider viewing the use of STREAM hands-on activities as a means of communication and connection with the youth you are working with.

And so to end this segment, if we are once again to tailor Jen Griswolds Milpreneur book to our context then that would be the following:

STREAMpreneur: Applying Lessons from STREAM Education to support youth entering the arena of Entrepreneurship and work environment as they navigate their lives.