

Susan Barbee

Senior Career Coach



"I support job seekers and emerging to mid-career managers master their brand, message, and strategy for getting that next level role or to become a more influential leader who brings out the best in their teams."

Susan maximizes individual and organizational growth by building capacity and support through coaching, facilitation, career management, and leadership development.

Key Areas of Career Expertise & Accomplishments

Susan draws from her years of experience in both coaching and Human Resources to guide individuals through transition and career change. At Bravanti, she's worked with diverse clients from executive to staff-level positions. Tailoring her approach to individual needs, she has helped candidates define and align their offer with the market, write a market-ready, create a strong job search strategy, and prepare for interviews and job offers.

In 2019, Susan founded her coaching practice, GrowForward Coaching + Consulting, LLC to empower professional growth for individuals, teams and organizations. She's worked with dozens of clients in diverse levels, roles and fields to identify and define their brand, build clarity and confidence through self-discovery, and create an action plan to achieve their goals. She also works directly with organizations to create customized leadership-development coaching programs, including new and mid-manager support, career management, group coaching, and professional-development workshops.

Prior to coaching, Susan worked as an HR consultant and advisor, helping leaders bring structure to their vision and advancing organizational missions and values. She designed talent-development enhancements that created growth opportunities and motivated employees to reach higher performance levels. She also coached managers to confidently lead and develop their teams and handle challenges ranging from employee relations to high-potential employees.

Education & Credentials

Susan earned her Bachelors Degree in Psychology from NIU. She is a Certified Career Services Provider (CCSP) from the National Career Development Association and a Certified Professional Coach (CCP) from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC). Susan also holds two certifications in Human Resources, including her PHR from the HR Certifications Institute and SHRM-CP, from the Society of Human Resource Management.

Coaching Philosophy

My mission is to empower professionals to uncover what they really want and actualize their vision for who they want to be.