

Palgrave Studies in Workplace Spirituality
and Fulfillment

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Christopher G. Beehner

Spirituality, Sustainability, and Success

Concepts and Cases

palgrave
macmillan

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Preface

I first encountered the concept of workplace spirituality while preparing for my doctoral dissertation. The degree specialization of my Doctor of Business Administration was organizational leadership, and I was seeking to “make my mark” in that field. The idea of incorporating spirituality into the workplace was not only intriguing but seemed appropriate. Thinking back to this time, I recall the quote attributed to French Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

I have been passionate about nature and the environment since childhood, and during my business career, I often promoted green and sustainable business ideas to my employers, with a mixed response. Near the end of my doctoral dissertation journey, I left industry and accepted a full-time business faculty position at Seminole State College of Florida. While primarily teaching traditional business topics, I was encouraged by my dean to develop and teach a course entitled *Sustainable Business Strategies*.

In early 2017, Dr. Satinder Dhiman of Woodbury University contacted me about writing a chapter in a major research work entitled *Handbook of Engaged Sustainability*. During email exchanges about the chapter (which was subsequently accepted and published), Satinder queried whether I would have an interest in writing a book about both spirituality and sustainability.

Over a period of several months, and numerous email exchanges, *Spirituality, Sustainability, and Success: Concepts and Cases* was conceived, and the completed work follows.

This book is written for doctoral students, scholars, and management practitioners who are interested in better understanding how spirituality and sustainability are beneficial for individual and organizational success. The book is organized into 11 chapters. The first few chapters will introduce the fundamentals of spirituality, workplace spirituality, and sustainability. The chapters that follow demonstrate how each of the constructs is beneficial in achieving individual and organizational success. Chapters 9 and 10 examine how the combination of spirituality and sustainability are beneficial for individual and organizational success, and the final chapter summarizes the previous chapters, also offering future recommendations. Each chapter will include a chapter case, an interview, or reflection questions in order to stimulate critical thinking, and provide instructional tools for academic use and practical application.

I would like to acknowledge Satinder Dhiman for introducing me to the Palgrave Macmillan organization, and Marcus Ballenger and Gabriel Everington at Palgrave Macmillan for their support during the publishing process. I would like to thank Hugh Moore, Dean of the Center for Business, Legal Studies, and Entrepreneurship at Seminole State College of Florida, for supporting and encouraging my sustainable business endeavors. Last, but certainly not least, I am grateful to my wife Corene and my sons, Logan and Erik, for supporting me during my doctoral studies and career change, and for providing influence and encouragement in the sustainability-focused direction in which my career is moving.

Heathrow, FL, USA

Christopher G. Beehner

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