

# Top Motivator Continues to Inspire

## Students learn goal-setting at Napoleon Hill Center

By Sue Ellen Ross, [Post-Tribune](#) correspondent

Reprinted with permission from the Post-Tribune and Sue Ellen Ross.

**HAMMOND** - When Calumet High School student Michael Austin heard that his band class was taking a field trip to Purdue University Calumet, he mistakenly thought the trip was totally music-related.

Although there was a short presentation of old instruments, the focus of the visit was to learn about the 17 principles of success developed by motivational author Napoleon Hill

The open house at the Napoleon Hill World Learning Center offered four days of workshops, presentations, exhibit viewing and walking the labyrinth next to the learning center.

“The labyrinth was interesting.” Austin said. “It was quiet and peaceful.”

Calumet band director Thomas Wright said the walk in the labyrinth gave the students “time out” for themselves.

“This half-hour gave them a chance to think not only of their goals, but other things in life as well,” he said.

After the walk, the students attended a presentation headlined by Dr. J. B. Hill, a physician from Bridgeport, W. Va. Hill discussed career changes and keeping your eye on your goals, no matter what age you are.

After a long stint serving as a Marine Corps officer, Hill retired from military service. But he didn’t retire from the working world.

He went to medical school and now works as director of hyperbaric medicine at the UHC Wound Care Center in Bridgeport.

Hill also is the grandson of Napoleon Hill.

“I didn’t know him well,” he said of his famous grandfather. “But his *‘Think and Grow Rich’* book changed my life.”



*Students and participants walk the labyrinth while Michael plays the flute.*

Each year, the Napoleon Hill World Learning Center offers an open house to familiarize area residents and students with Hill’s philosophies. Among his 17 principles are definiteness of purpose, creative vision and enthusiasm.

Center director Judy Williamson and her assistant, Chino Martinez, coordinated this year’s program, inviting out-of-town speakers to discuss various topics.

Also new this year was an exhibit designed by Michael Telapary of the Netherlands that included 17 framed digital art items. “Every image represents one of the motivational principles,” Telapary said.

At the beginning of each year’s program, Martinez introduces “Lessons of the Labyrinth.”

“It seems to have been inspired by nature,” Martinez said. “The labyrinth can be used for personal growth or it can be walked with a group for a common purpose. It’s like discovering an ancient path well-worn by those great heroic figures that came before us.”

The talk was followed by a walk around the labyrinth, located outside the building on the grass.

In 1908, Napoleon Hill was working as a young journalist. His encounter with industrialist Andrew Carnegie prompted him to accept Carnegie’s request to interview specific successful persons in order to study aspects of personal achievement.

That assignment lasted 20 years.

From this experience, Hill went on to develop his 17 principles of success and authored many books, including *“Law of Success”* (1928) and *“Think and Grow Rich”* (1937).

This article appeared in the May 15, 2009 in the *Post Tribune* of Indiana.