

## B. Joseph White: Resilience in Action – Part 3 of 3

I'm a better leader, more confident, more empathetic, more resilient and wiser for having successfully navigated a major career disappointment.

B. Joseph White

### Situation

On May 29, 2002, B. Joseph White officially learned that he was not chosen as the University of Michigan's 13th president. After his eight successful months as interim president, many had thought he would be Michigan's next leader. Carrying on with the former president's campaigns, while initiating his own new ideas, White was saddened at the decision. But rather than hide from the disappointment, White decided to address it head-on in a speech to the regents and executive officers of the university.

### Moving Past Disappointment

Seven months after his job as interim president ended, White was afforded the opportunity to work at the New York investment firm Fred Alger Management. Appointed the firm's managing director, White took a leave of absence from the University of Michigan to help the firm recover from the tragedy of September 11. Fred Alger Management had been located on the 93rd floor of the north tower of the World Trade Center. All 35 people in the office at 8:50 a.m. that morning, including Fred's brother David, Alger's president, perished.

After leaving Fred Alger Management, White returned to Michigan to help develop the university's Life Science Institute. He and Liz Barry, managing director of the institute, developed a one-of-a-kind MBA-level course called "The Business of Biology: Personalized Medicine and the Future of Health Care." The course's objective was to explore the genomic revolution and the current and future economic, business, health care, legal, and ethical implications of personalized medicine

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