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To High School students everywhere:

We live in exciting times with unprecedented opportunities to enjoy life and contribute to society. Whatever you decide to do with your life make sure that you find a career that you love.

One key to a happy life is to find a job that makes you want to wake up on a Monday morning anxious to get to work because it is fun. Don't get a job just because the pay is good. Money is useful, but most smart people make more than they really need. Money doesn't bring happiness, the best it can do is facilitate an easy life style, and perhaps give you more time to do what you really enjoy doing.

Another lesson I learned early was that luck is very important. From time to time we all get lucky breaks. Don't waste them! When a piece of luck comes your way make the most of it. Concentrate hard on the next move so that you avoid just wasting that lucky break.

Another lesson that some people never fully appreciate is that we all contribute to the successful running of our society, from the very intelligent to the lowliest of our fellow humans. Treat everybody well and never be misled into thinking that you are better than your fellows because you have a better job or think you are smarter than your neighbor. The man who removes our trash every week is an invaluable member of our society and one you would not want to be without. Say hello and treat him as well as you would the local mayor, after all he may be the local mayor!

Finally, strive to be the very best you can. Don't settle for second best because it is the easy option. Most of us only reach our peak when we are challenged and have to dig deep within ourselves to answer that challenge. Don't give up at the first hint of failure or because you are scared you won't succeed. We all make mistakes for most of us that is the only way we really learn.

I wish you all a happy and successful life.

Rich Roberts
1993 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine.