

Cheryl Saban  
Open Letter to Students for Achievement Advocacy  
3/31/05

## Open Letter to students – Achievement Advocacy

What is the definition of success? How does one choose a career direction that both exhilarates, and sustains – in other words, a career that is fun, but also pays the rent? Destiny is a tricky thing, but that said, I believe you can achieve **most**, if not **all**, of the goals you set your mind to.

How to accomplish this? Never say never – keep setting goals, and keep going after them. As an example, I am 54, mother of four, grandmother of two (almost three) have had multiple careers, and have only now – within the past few months, received my Ph.D. in Psychology. I have a thirst for knowledge, for continuing, for working, that cannot be easily quenched – and boy-oh-boy, am I glad. It is a thrill to learn something new, and to put that new information into play.

Give back. Yes, even young students have riches of great worth that may be shared with others. Donate your time, be a camp counselor, read to grammar school kids, visit senior citizen homes, share your story and wisdom...make someone smile. Community service is an honor, a privilege. Never think of it as a duty. Remember, it DOES take a village. All of us count, and all should be counted. Community and civic-minded youth are happier, fair better in school, and are less likely to engage in risky behaviors. Amazing, isn't it? But it's true. The secret about *giving* is the return on investment you receive – it's hard to explain, but just try it and you'll see – you actually get more back.

Keep your eye on the ball. Set your goals – and go forward. It may take time to accomplish them – you may need to change them along the way. There may be hiccups, complications, setbacks, and disappointments. But keep on *keeping on*. Look for mentors, and/or individuals you admire, and study them. There is value and opportunity all around you, if you look for it.

Hey, nobody ever said it would be easy! Most of the important things in life require effort. As was once so eloquently stated by William Jennings Bryan, “Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.”

Go out there, and achieve it! We'll all be here if you need us.

Sincerely,

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