

*To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe (Anatole France).* I believe that everything in life coincides with many attributes that tie in together to get our hopes, dreams and accomplishments obtained. We must first have a vision, a dream. Dreaming will only be just that if it's not acted upon. Planning is required and believing may be the biggest challenge. The reason is that if you believe, the rest tends to fall into place. Although, it won't fall into place on its own. It's a great start.

I believe that the way we see life and all its offering determine how we face every day challenges. We can view things as either a problem or recognize that its merely an obstacle, a bump on the road. A vision isn't obtainable on its own. It requires belief that it is worth having! *Success is not measured by what you accomplish, but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds (Orison Swett Marden).*

*The world is all gates, all opportunities, strings of tension waiting to be struck. (Ralph Waldo Emerson).* In this exceptionally challenging economic environment the desire to hunker down and avoid any and all risk is often overcoming. Each of us operates under certain assumptions of our business environment. Often, by stepping back from the tedium of day to day operations we can better see the "big picture". This opportunity to observe the bigger picture must be coupled with the ability to recognize the opportunities that this view may contain.

*I have learned that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours (Henry David Thoreau).* One of my risks would be coming back to a university after 13 years. The opportunity seized and I took it. Matters from my past prevented me from completing my education. I chose the career path in order to support my child. Do I regret it? No. And now, I'm back in school, inspiring to be something better. My background has allowed me to grow as an individual and has made me much stronger, more confident and proud of my accomplishments. *Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great. Weak men wait for opportunities; strong men make them (Orison Swett Marden).*

In conclusion, *The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it (Ralph Waldo Emerson).* Whether accomplishments come from risk or planning I will make something great of myself. There will never be another now, I'll make the most of today. There will never be another me I'll make the most of myself.