

Defining Success

There are many different definitions for success. Is success about achieving goals? Having choices? About what you have? About who you are? When working towards building a community that nurtures successful youth, we too often assume that everyone is working with the same definition of 'success' in mind. Will success mean different things to a teenager, her grandmother, her parents, her principal, and her best friend? You bet! How do we support a young person in sorting out these different messages? Is there common ground in our hopes for young people?

Success is not the key to happiness.
Happiness is the key to success.
If you love what you are doing, you
will be successful.

- Albert Schweitzer

Is success something that we achieve, or something that we are always moving toward?

In the ways that you measure success, are you mindful of your answer to the first question?

Check out the Notes folder for a quick activity for defining success.

There are many ways to measure success; not the least of which is the way your child describes you when talking to a friend.

- Unknown

TWO VIEWS OF SUCCESS FROM FATHER MICHAEL OLEKSA:

Western Culture:

A well adjusted, productive citizen in the global economy.

Tribal Culture:

**Knowing who you are as a human being,
Knowing where you fit into the world,
Knowing how you will lovingly relate to the world.**

Neither definition is better, both have elements of the other.

Can we bridge these two cultural perspectives?