

2017 Worthy Women's Professional Studies Scholarship – Finalist Essay

By Dawn McCall

Failure can be devastating if a person chooses to let it beat them by not making change. Failure can also be empowering if one chooses to learn from it and try a new path with different results. I like to think of the quote by Winston Churchill "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage that counts" (Walter, 2013). I know that I'm not perfect but I keep trying to make my life better with every challenge I face.

My life has been a challenging one, but I try not to dwell on the speed bumps but rather the knowledge I have learned so that I can pass it on to my children and to the children in the classroom. When my marriage fell apart, I was nearly 40 years old and terrified to do things on my own. I did not want to go back to the way things were however, so I struggled to do things on my own and to make my life better. While I have yet to find another person to share my life with, I am pursuing a better career and have the failure of my marriage to thank for that. After living alone for the past 6 years, I feel so much stronger and more confident in myself. I now know that I can reach my goals.

One of my goals is to become a full time teacher and to do this I need to further my education. Choosing to continue my education was not an easy decision but I knew I needed more changes in my life, so I took the leap of faith last May. It has not been easy for a full time working, single mom such as myself, I was terrified in my first class that I would not have the time to finish all of the assignments. However I knew that I needed to set a precedent for my two young boys who also struggle with their academic work and I now have a 4.0 GPA. I am hopeful that my success will help to empower them by showing them that hard work does pay off. My oldest son asked me to help him with an Essay and I showed him how to break things down into chunks and outline the basics of the report. It took some time to review but the work was manageable and it paid off when he received a grade of 96 (an outstanding grade for him).

Going back to school is not easy, especially for someone over 30. The financial obligation alone is terrifying, as well as the additional workload for someone with a full time job. It can be done and I'm living proof of it. I work full time and take additional odd jobs to help with the bills, along with running a small farm/household

with two young boys. My schedule is very full but I have priorities and know that there a better life at the end of all the hard work. I am hopeful that other struggling women see my example and it empowers them to change their lives for the better and to find their worthiness.

Reference:

Walter, Ekaterina (2013). 30 Powerful quotes on failure. Forbes.com. Taken from: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ekaterinawalter/2013/12/30/30-powerful-quotes-on-failure/#6f93540e24bd>