
The Secret to Success

A *wise man* lived in an African village next to a lake. He knew every secret of life.

One day, two village kids decided to test the wise man. They asked him, "What is the secret to success?" Without saying a word, the wise man took each kid by the hand and walked them to the lake and into the water - *until they were completely underwater!* The kids didn't know how to swim, and they began to panic.

But just before they could no longer hold their breath, the wise man pulled them out to the shore. Taking deep breaths, the kids wildly began to catch their breath, and they screamed at the wise man, "Are you CRAZY? You could have killed us!" The wise man answered, "Just before I pulled you from the water, what was most important to you?" The kids replied, "We were going to drown. We wanted to breathe!"

Sharing his wisdom, the wise man said, "Exactly! When you find something in life that you want as much as *you want to breathe*, then you will find the *secret to success.*"

Adapted from story by Dr. Edward Prather, Emerging Ethnic Engineers Program, University of Cincinnati



MESA Creators "want to breathe"!