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The Multifaceted Nature of Success

Success is a subjective concept that varies from person to person. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, success refers to achieving a goal or purpose. However, determining success requires having a clear objective in the first place. Various researchers and scholars have studied success within the realms of business and society. Some have identified key components for achieving success, such as enthusiasm, support, energy, and teamwork, among others.

Benjamin Franklin Fairless, a successful American steel company executive, identified four essential ingredients for successful accomplishments: pursuing a career you love, giving your best effort, seizing opportunities, and being part of a team. These elements highlight the significance of choice, commitment, determination, taking advantage of opportunities, and exhibiting leadership skills and teamwork.

Success should be viewed as a long-term goal that requires careful planning. Learning from mistakes plays a crucial role in achieving long-term success. Successful individuals do not easily give up but persist with a positive attitude and strong values.

In the academic context, the definition of success evolves. Here, success is rooted in the fulfillment of positively influencing students and leaving a lasting mark through impactful research publications that tackle critical business and societal challenges, with implications extending to the future. At ADU, the institutional view is that success stems from the power to transform students' lives and generate meaningful impact on both the business world and the broader community. Additionally, success entails collectively sharing the University's accomplishments.

My own humble view is that success is a complex and highly personal concept. At its core, success is about achieving one's goals and living a fulfilling life by impacting other people's lives. For some, success may mean attaining wealth, power, or status. For others, it could be about making a positive impact on the world, nurturing close relationships, or finding inner peace and happiness. Ultimately, the definition of success is unique to each individual and is shaped by their values, aspirations, and life experiences. True success is not about comparison to others, but about realizing one's full potential and finding a sense of purpose and contentment. While the path to success is rarely straightforward, the journey of self-discovery and growth that it entails can be immensely rewarding.

Allow me to conclude with a quote by Harvey MacKay "People begin to become successful the minute they decide to be."

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