

Memorable thoughts that can apply to Six Sigma, Lean and Project Management

Sam Keene – July 2011

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the sea." –
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

I want to know God's equation (for a given process) – Bill Diamond, IBM DOE
Statistician retired and mentor to many in Six Sigma.

"Nature does nothing uselessly." – Aristotle

As we mature, we need to learn to see simplicity in the complex things and complexity in the simple things.

"Nature goes her own way, and all that to us seems an exception is really according to order."

Goethe

"Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value."

Buckminster Fuller

"Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives, the cumulative experience of many masters of craftsmanship. Quality also marks the search for an ideal after necessity has been satisfied and mere usefulness achieved."

Willa A. Foster

"When Six Sigma initiatives cease to be an irritant and become our common quest, in that moment the organization will be exponentially transformed with power."

Sam

All decisions are made on insufficient evidence

You'll never have all the information you need to make a decision. If you did, it would be a foregone conclusion, not a decision."

David Mahoney

“When you are looking for an excuse, any excuse will do.”

As a Man Thinketh

“One common experience of humanity is the challenge of problems.”

R. Buckminster Fuller

“Whatever you do, you need courage, whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires some of the same courage that a soldier needs. Peace has its victories, but it takes brave men and women to win them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Silence is a text easy to misread.”

A. A. Attansio

Any problem you can solve with a check isn't a problem: it's just an expense.

John Besnard

“Enthusiasm is one of the most powerful engines of success. When you do a thing, do it with all of your might. Put your whole sole into it. Stamp it with your personality. Be active, be energetic, be enthusiastic and faithful, and you will accomplish your object. Nothing great was ever accomplished without enthusiasm.”

Emerson (1803-1882)

Philosopher, Essayist and Poet

“Don't find fault: find a remedy.”

Henry Ford

“Genius is the ability to reduce the complicated to the simple”

A. W. Cetar

“Genius is nothing but a greater aptitude for patience.”

Benjamin Franklin

“We must love them both – those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject. For both have labored in search for truth, and both have helped us in the finding of it.”

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)
Theologian & Philosopher

“I have no particular talent. I am merely inquisitive.”

A. Einstein

“The greatest composer does not set to work because he is inspired, but becomes inspired because he is working. They don’t waste time waiting for inspiration.”

Ernest Newman
Writer

“Discovery consists of working at the same thing as everyone else and thinking of something different.”

Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1893-1986)

“Focus on remedies: not faults.”

Jack Nicklaus

“Every production of genius must be the production of enthusiasm.”

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881)

“Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish.”

John Quincy Adams

“If you want work well done, select a busy man – the other kind has no time.”

Elbert Hubbard

“We act as though comfort and luxury are the chief requirements of life, when all we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about.”

Charles Kingsley (1819–1878)
Writer

A single data point is an aberration --

Rick Follenweider

“If a language is not correct, then what is said is not meant, if what is said is not meant, then what ought to be done remains undone” - Confucius