

EKTIMIS.com Quote of the Month

Date January, 2010

“Acknowledge failure, but don’t reward it; acknowledge success and celebrate it.”

This month’s (January) quotation deals with two popular concepts — success and failure. Life is full of many success stories and countless stories of failure. We know that there are many more stories of failure than there are stories of success because most success stories occur after numerous moments of failure, and most stories of failure are never told.

If you asked many people who have achieved a significant level of success (at something) to talk about their moments of failure, most would tell you that they had to admit failure when it occurred. Once they confronted it, they learned from it and moved on—continuing their pursuit of success. Failure was never rewarded.

If you asked the same people to talk about their moments of success, most would tell you that they recognized success when it occurred. Once recognized, they celebrated it—enjoying the reward and fostering an attitude for potentially pursuing another level of success.

Respect requires the same approach. It is important to acknowledge always when we have failed to command self-respect or failed to show respect when due. It is equally important to acknowledge when we exhibit self-respect and when we afford others due respect. The act of the former paves the way for the latter, while the latter minimizes the likely occurrence of the former.

About the Author



Niyi Taiwo is the founder of EKTIMIS and the lead editor for the EKTIMIS eLibrary articles. He is the author of several books, including the EKTIMIS Top Ten Laws series. He is a continuous improvement expert with over 21 years of industry experience – operational, management and consulting. He has been studying the topic of respect since 2004. He holds an undergraduate degree from WPI and a master’s degree from RPI. He is a certified Lean Expert and an ASQ-certified Six Sigma Black Belt.