

# Making an Impact!



**Randy T. Gilmore, Owner/President, Marching Show Concepts, Inc.**

For me, the beginning of a new school year is always a time for course correction and pinpointing what it is that I want to create and accomplish over the coming year on a professional as well as on a personal level. We all know that nothing will change in our world until we assume the personal responsibility required to change. The world is a mirror: we get from life not what we want but who we are. As you look to yourself, explore your most authentic values, articulate what you want to make of life and then set about manifesting these outcomes while creating value for the people around you.

I also believe that it is important to remember that there are many metrics by which you can measure success. It is very easy to fall into the trap of measuring the success you experienced in the 2012-13 school year by how many awards you received, how many new students you acquired, how much money you made and so on. If you perceive others having more or accomplishing more, it is likely that you will feel unsuccessful. The economics or some level of reward is only one of many forms of success. While there is nothing wrong with these as they certainly increase the choices available to us, other benchmarks of genuine success must also be considered

as you evaluate how you did this past year and as you look to the new school year. Here are a few additional metrics of success to consider:

## **1. Experience an evolutionary success!**

What kinds of experiences will you have or create this year? How will you evolve as a person? Your 2013-14 school year should offer numerous experiences and opportunities for added richness, depth and wisdom to your life!

## **2. Adventure!**

What kinds of adventures will you engage in through the course of the year? Will you travel? Will you try new things, new ways of teaching? Will you step out of your comfort zone? Will you find a new venue for your program that helps your students to grow and have a better educational experience? Measure your success in part, on the amount of adventures that you provide and experience.

## **3. Relationship and reputation!**

No matter how many rewards, trophies or money one makes, if you lack community and love in your life, I do not believe that you will experience genuine success. If you truly want to win with people, you need to make them feel *essential*. Cheer your students on, bring them joy everyday and acknowledge them for who they

are. These are key to helping everyone feel a sense of community, respect and love! Ask yourself what the community around you and your network looks like. Reflect on the quality of your reputation.

## **4. Fun!**

The human brain craves novelty. We are happiest when we are growing. In 2013-14 what will you do for fun!? Will you chase your passions and do the things you love to do? This too is an important measurement of success.

## **5. Impact!**

Greatness comes by beginning something that does not end with you and living for a cause larger than yourself. To have made a difference in the lives of the students around you is to have succeeded!

Here's to a *Great You* and your best year yet. I challenge you to create more value than you have ever created for those around you. Make it a *Great Year!*

*Randy T. Gilmore served ten years as a nationally recognized high school band director and assistant marching band director at West Chester University. For over 20 years Randy has developed Marching Show Concepts as a nationally known company for quality marching band products and exceptional one-to-one services. Randy exemplifies an expertise and standard of excellence that is well known and respected throughout the music industry. He is an accomplished clinician, adjudicator and drill designer who continues to display his talents in the MSC collection of products and services.*