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## Excellece in Education -- What it Means to Me

Tina Miller

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# Excellence Equals Kinetic

Holly K. Powell

"In the beginning...the earth was without form and void" (Genesis 1:2).

Education is the element introduced to shape a formless mind into a viable, productive person. Education turns potential energy into kinetic energy. Encouragement is the intrinsic catalyst needed to begin the process of learning. A kindergartner has the desire to try again because the teacher encouraged him. A 30-year-old mother of four takes the terrifying step to start college because someone encouraged her. The transformation has begun—potential to kinetic.

Educational excellence is achieved by new methods, not old, by fresh experiences, not ancient practices, through creativity, not recitation. Originality is what causes the lessons to be remembered. Creativity is the spark needed to transform an opaque, empty mind into glowing, fertile consciousness—potential to kinetic.

Although education cannot truly create life, it does much to give meaning—shape and substance. Education develops potential energy. Excellence in education converts potential to kinetic. " ...and there was light. And God saw ... that it was good" (Genesis 1:4).

## Excellence in Education—What it Means to Me

Tina Miller

**To the Professors,**

When you reveal to me the world you have learned, you inspire me to discover it with my own mind. By stimulating me to ask questions, you invite my curiosity to grow. When you advocate me, you support my natural ability to trust. With inspiration, stimulation, and support I am able to think for myself. When I think for myself, I turn problems into solutions. These are the tools you give me when you are an excellent educator.

When I appreciate excellence in education, I bring to the world my open mindedness. When I am

open minded, I am a compassionate, proficient listener because I am receptive to the ideas of others, encouraging unrestrained dialogue. As an individual with an open mind, I have the capacity to see things differently, making me flexible. Flexibility is the foundation of creativity. These are the gifts I give to myself when I choose to be educated.

Your tools help me discover my gifts. That is what excellence in education means to me.