



DIVISION OF  
Arts and Sciences

Arts and Sciences Division  
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Dear Arts & Sciences Students, Faculty, and Staff:

Hello, I am Jason Stone, the Division Head of Arts & Sciences at OSU-OKC. I would like to take a moment to briefly talk to you about your future. I am glad that you chose to invest in yourself and watch the next video in our series about the Habits of the mind. The Habit that we are stressing in this video is persistence.

I wanted to start our conversation about persistence off with a quotation that a family member recently shared with me and that I really like about persistence. Calvin Collidge, the 30<sup>th</sup> President of the United States once said, "Nothing in the world can take the place of Persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

I used to manage competitive college debate teams. We often joked with one another, that other schools might have more resources, more coaches, better facilities, better libraries, and better debaters, but that no one in the activity was going to work harder than us today.

There are going to be many times on both your educational and professional journey where what you try does not work the first time. There will be times when what you do the second and third time does not work either. In those times, you will have to possess a strongly developed habit of persistence to be successful. The future belongs to those who persist in the face adversity. Thomas Edison is famous for the development of the incandescent light bulb.

Edison tried over 10,000 different filaments in his light bulbs before he found the right combination of fibers and pressure. Many other people were working on the light bulb. But history does not remember those. History remembers Edison because he had a habit of learning from his failures and persisting until he was successful. Edison was asked about these "failures" he replied, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Edison also had some wisdom that I would conclude with, and I hope that he was not talking about me or any of you, "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

Persistence is an important habit of the mind.



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Please join me and attend to the other videos in this series. Thank you for time and attention. Have a great day and go pokes.

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