

Marilyn Leff

Scientists tell us that happiness is catching. One person's happiness can influence those around him or her to experience that state. I know this is true because my grandson Simon has a smile, a twinkle in his eyes and disposition that makes the most sober person smile and reach out to him. I've witnessed this dozens of times. But, while his happiness is catching in these young years, my dream for him is that he can incorporate this natural ability of his into a skill that he can use to enrich himself and the world. And not necessarily in material wealth, but in ways that enable him to solve problems and understand the world. Will he be a teacher whose smile and knowledge help inspire students to continue with their education? Will he be a doctor whose smile and knowledge of medicine can calm the fears of someone engulfed by illness? Will he be a politician whose smile and understanding of the political process puts him in a position to enact much needed legislation? Will he work in a business in which his smile and understanding of economics and finance help not only him but his co-workers as well? My hope for Simon is that his smile continues as he gains the education and skills to put his mind to work for himself and others. Only a college education can bring him closer to that dream of mine for him.