

TRIUMPH OF A JANITOR

A university professor doubled as head of the school's Biomedical Computer Center. He believed that even a poorly educated person could learn computer skills, and that he could teach that person.

To prove it, he began working with a minimally educated janitor at the school.

Their learning partnership made good progress – until someone at the university decided all its computer operators should have a certain IQ level.

When the janitor was tested, he scored so low he was judged unlikely to ever learn to type – let alone develop computer skills. The professor, however, believed so strongly in his pupil and in his own teaching skills that he put his job on the line. He threatened to quit unless he could continue.

Well, he's still running the computer center.

And the janitor?

He's now in charge of the main computer room and trains new employees himself.

If he continues to polish his teaching skills – and believes in them – those pupils are likely to succeed, too.

Two lessons are derived from this story:

1. Sometimes, the limits of what you can do to help the people in your life are set, not by your skills, but by how much you believe in those skills. And your confidence in your talents is grown by use of them. Practice, practice, practice.
2. Assessment of the value that people can offer exceeds what may be written on paper. Good leaders have an ability to see the potential in folks that others cannot.

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor (Proverbs 12:24 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter