The recipient of this year’s Prime Minister’s Supreme Award 2011 for sustained excellence in tertiary teaching in a kaupapa Māori context, Auckland University’s Professor Michael Walker of Whakatohea, has been spectacularly successful in creating pathways for Māori learners to succeed in science. A biological scientist, Professor Walker continues a whânau legacy of academic excellence and as one former learner said, he’s a true Rangatira, a humble, empowering visionary deriving satisfaction from the success of others.

How can we cultivate the habit of looking for the best in the people we meet each day? If you don't believe in yourself, you're going to fight an uphill battle to get others to believe in you. Look for what you can learn from a person - how you can genuinely help them. Be positive towards people. Expect the best from others - you'll quite often get it. We should always look for the best in other people, and in ourselves. Work to make yourself better, and then after you’ve achieved your goals, give yourself a pat on the back and move on to the next area of growth. Kia pai tō wiki!