

Speech

I would first like to thank everyone for finding time out of their lives to come to this event. I also want to thank my sponsors and all the supporters of the school that push us everyday to keep moving forward and to do the best with what we have.

Coming to The Community School has changed me dramatically. Before I came here, I was always getting myself in trouble, or I was being pulled into trouble that had nothing to do with me. But here, I've focused a lot more on my work than I ever did at any other school, and I learned more this year than ever before in my life.

Coming to The Community School, and taking advantage of every situation thrown at me in a positive way, has made me a better person. I never used to have a lot of manners when it came to saying "excuse me," or "god bless you." I never used to mind cussing outside because I didn't care who heard me or how they looked at me as a person. Now I show a lot of respect to other people even if I do not know them, just so they don't look down on me like they often do too many of the people in my neighborhood.

I'm not a perfect kid; no one is. But I'm now trusted and more responsible when it comes to taking care of myself. I never used to have a job; I used to just find things to do for work, just so I could have some money in my pocket. But, since September of last year, I've had a job working on weekends and have proven myself to be such a hard worker, that my boss has told me he intends to name me a Vice President of the company.

I look back and think how far I've come in the past year, and I really want to thank Tom for always being there for me. Without Tom's help, I couldn't

imagine where I would be. Tom has taught me so many things when it comes to being out on your own. He's helped me realize what needs confrontation, and what doesn't. He's also showed me that there is a perfect time for everything, so don't react too soon, but don't let opportunities slip and it be too late.

Tom has helped me change from being a dreamer to being a doer. I used to always set lots of dreams for my future but never actually follow through with them. Now I don't have dreams, I have goals. I refer to them as goals because I'm not just thinking about them anymore; I'm doing something about them.

When I was doing bad in school before, a lot of people in my family began to worry that I was starting to ruin my life. But after coming to The Community School and giving it my everything, I am getting my life back on track. I'm happy that I got to change everything around and finally make everyone proud again. Making you all proud of me and seeing how happy it's made you is what makes me continue moving forward today.

I thank you all again for helping me reach my goals, and to keep looking forward, without looking back.

C.J. Sosa

5-17-2010