

Banning High School Commencement Speeches

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Senior Class President Joselyn Garcia

Banning High School senior class President Joselyn Garcia's commencement speech, as it was submitted to the Record Gazette:

Hello and good evening, on behalf of the class of 2014 I would like to thank the family, friends, and distinguished educators who have been able to make it today. Seniors, let's start by taking a flashback to freshmen year, getting lost through the school, trying to figure out where our classes are. It does not feel like that long ago or does it? Since August 26, 2010 there has been a lot of change in each and every one of our lives. For some we are sitting with the people we began high school with, and for others we have found new friendships. Many of us have fallen in and out of love, lost friends, debated on what career to take on, and having the chance to figure out who you are and who you are in the pursuit to become. Each day that goes by it does not feel like things are changing, but if you look back you begin to see that time is something we are never going to be able to get back. What teenagers do not take advantage of is the power of being able to live in what is the present. We are too worried on what the future is going to be and too stressed on the past we are not able to change. Having the chance on sharing the past four years of my life with the students of Banning High School has been a blessing. Through all the tears, challenges, laughs, and memories everything has lead us to where we stand today. It is going to be hard to not come back and be able to see the recognizable faces, be able to be on a first name basis, since everyone does know everyone here. No one enjoys more than I the work we have all put in on receiving a diploma, a piece of

paper that shows us we are capable on moving on to the next part of the educational system, and having the chance to find ourselves.

One of the biggest things I have gotten out of my educators is not to question the reasons on why things happen. What some of us have focused too much on is the grade instead of the knowledge. 10 years from now what is that grade going to be able to offer us? It is the knowledge we gain from the experience that is going to continue to count. Never live in doubt, but live in the risk. Risk is what makes life adventurous and teaches us how to make life a bit more hurtful or a bit brighter. Do not get stuck in the high school mentality since it is just one chapter in our lives. Take what you have learned this past four years and put it in effect. Never settle on anything, **we are meant for greatness.**

The one thing that I am going to miss from high school is the unity and memories we all have built. We could not forget the glory we felt winning the wheel back from Beaumont, or having the New Boyz show up our freshmen year, or even forget the long stressful nights of studying for finals, but at the end of the day that is what we will remember and take with us.

Before I wrap my speech up there are a couple of people I would like to thank. I want to start with the educators who have brought me to where I am, including many of you. Without teachers pushing us to our limits a lot of us would not be sitting here and I would not be delivering this speech. To my Academy of Business and Technology teachers thank you for being able to handle a crazy, psychotic girl. You have brought me to figuring out how important the future is and that there are people out there who care about their students. Thank you to my assistant principal Mr. Matt Valdivia for being a pillar of strength and support through my four years in high school. I would also like to thank the people who are sitting in the first and second row. Being class president is one of the hardest things I had to do, but I would have not been able to face the challenges without the help and assistance of my closest friends. There are no words to explain how grateful I am to have been able to have people who are not family to have been able to stand me at my worst. Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness. Lastly I would like to thank my family who are sitting out in the stands. Ama y pa, gracias por haber darme la oportunidad de vivir en un pais donde los sueos se hacen realidad. Este diploma es para enseñarles que todos sus sacrificios no han sido por nada. My parents have been my biggest supporters and they continue to be by my side. I have been fortunate enough to have been blessed with hard working parents who would go to any limits to make me happy. To my oldest sister Karen, I thank you for being a great example and for keeping our family strong. Thanks to the people who have believed in me and I am a woman who did not have the heart to let my educators, friends, or family down. The words I want to leave you with today are "Whatever you want in life, other people are going to want it too. **Believe in yourself enough to accept the idea you have an equal right to it.**" Until we meet again, thank you class of 2014.