

Banning High School Commencement Speeches

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ASB President Savanna Alcantar

The following is Banning High School Associated Student Body President Savanna Alcantar's commencement address, as it was submitted to the Record Gazette:

Good evening school board members, faculty, families, friends, and the community my name is Savanna Alcantar. I am the ASB president at BHS. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to Banning High School, the Home of Broncos and the graduating class of 2014. Congratulations to every single one of you today. And let me tell you, you all look great! Take a moment now and pause, look around, take it all in, the stadium, the buildings, the teachers sitting with you that you spent all year with, and your families in the grand stands that support you always. Take it all in, all around you now and realize that this is the last time that we the class of 2014 will be together, here, in this moment.

Throughout all four years of high school I think this is the hardest assignment I have ever been given. I did not want to come on this stage today, to say goodbye. This year was tough losing three former students who were a part of our class. That's why I would like to dedicate my speech today to Patrick Connolly, Calia Maxwell, and Dajoni Satterwhite. All three have left a vision and imprint on some of you in a memorable way. My prayers and condolences go out to the families and loved ones for their loss. Those we lost will follow us as we succeed and achieve and one day we will reunite.

Taking the role of ASB President was the best achievement I've earned here at Banning High School. To be able to lead every single one of you was an honor. Being able to speak on behalf of our high school at every school board meeting and every day announcing "Good morning

Banning Broncos” on the public address will always be something I'll forever cherish and miss. We all have those specific memories that we all will forever remember throughout high school. Like when our very own Banning Broncos brought the Wheel home last September from the Cougars and defeated them 20 to 10, or when the girls' varsity basketball team won the Mountain Valley League title, and to those seniors who participated in the solar boat competition and took 3rd place. Also to all the band and color guard students who practiced every day and did a great job in their performance competitions. As a student athlete I know that I will forever remember my last soccer game and my senior year playing with a group of girls I call my sisters because we came on the field as a family and left as a family and as a team. See, that's what high school is all about, we make cherished memories and learn many life lessons. Some lessons we wish we didn't have to go through but if we didn't go through them we wouldn't be the people we have become today.

We also have to take the time to appreciate those who helped us throughout the way, whether it was a family member, or colleague, or even a teacher. I would like to give thanks to my mother and father for being my number one fans and support system throughout high school. I was blessed to have them every second of the way. Mom, I'm sorry if I don't become the first female president but I will be the first to graduate college in our family and I WILL make You Proud. DAD, I know we bump heads and share the same temper but at the end of the day I love you and I will always do my best to make you proud, and you'll forever be the only man to have a place in my heart. A huge thanks to my big sister Charie who was my role model and showed me that anything is possible and that starting over isn't so bad. Thank you for always doing your best to lead me down the right path and for being my second mother, I love you.

A special thanks to Coach Ron Duncan for assisting in the rehabilitation of my knee after my MCL surgery allowing me to be strong enough to play my senior year of soccer. To my soccer coaches Marc and Aja thank you for letting me know when I was off sides and telling me to stick to the last man you will always be my number one coaches. Thanks to Ms. Cole and Miss Torres for their support and always having an open door when I didn't always have the best days. To Mr. Matt Valdivia thank you for being my backbone, my champion, and my number one principal. Thank you Val, high school would not have been the same without you. If it wasn't for this BHS teacher I wouldn't have motivation to wake up in the morning to go to school. You may all know this next catch phrase, “So seriously speaking guys,” this teacher gave me that motivation to want to learn and leave his class knowing I received and truly earned my education. He deserved the teacher of the year award and I'm glad it was awarded to you. Thank you so much Mr. Kwon for all you have given and guided me. Passionate teachers and dedicated administration is the key to a successful school. Reaching out to and caring for students are all we ask for.

But as students and now future adults we have to realize that there's not going to be teachers who will give us extra credit to get that .5% or no one to give us a tardy pass to be late to work. It's all on you to be responsible and start taking matters into our own hands. But remember success is all a matter of perspective. And tomorrow none of it matters whether you were captain of the football team, head cheerleader, or class president because tomorrow we all start brand new. But take this into consideration that no one is entitled to anything. Start your adult life with an open mind, be humble, and have integrity. We live in a country where we need to take advantage of our education system because we are the future. Remember, change only starts with the "man in the mirror". We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek. And that starts here today with us. Gandhi quoted "We must be the change we wish to see in the world". Yes we had minor setbacks from the start of our freshmen year to now but nothing could stop us from this day. Wearing green and white and proving everyone out there who told you that you couldn't do it, well look at you now, we are graduating! Sometimes we need to experience disappointment in our lives to give us motivation to prove them wrong. Even myself I had those who tried to bring me down and if I let them I wouldn't be delivering my speech today but guess what I'm standing on this podium and speaking at my graduation. To those who are unable to participate in our ceremony you still survived through 13 years of waking up every day and trying to make it before that bell rang. I also applaud the students who didn't have the support that most of us are fortunate to have. To those students who attended high school and worked jobs on their free time to just get by, paying for their own prom tickets and cap and gowns, I applaud you and give yourself a pat on the back because you earned it and deserve it.

As your Banning High School Associated Student Body President, senior associated student body president, I would like to say how privileged I am to stand before every single one of you today and deliver this speech, and more importantly I am honored to call myself a Bronco. The second you receive your diploma by one of our school board members is the second that your future begins. Like Drew Huston said, "You don't know where you're going but we want to get there as soon as possible." Today is the start of your first chapter in life. **So don't forget to take a risk to have fun, to be safe, to know the consequences of your actions, and remember there are bigger and better things that are waiting for all of us.** I refuse to say goodbye, so rather I want to say see you later in ten years Class of 2014 and good luck. Thank you.