

SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW H. CARD, JR.
HINE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT
JUNE 15, 1992
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OPENING

- Princess Whitfield, congratulations on the national acclaim you have won for yourself and for this school. Your spirit -- the now famous Hine spirit -- has made this school something very special.
- Congratulations to the parents who have worked and sacrificed so that their children could have a better life.
- And to every member of the faculty, let me say "a job well done." When your students reach the age of 50, and look back, they may not remember one high school teacher, or one college professor.
-- But they will remember each of your names because you've gave them the foundation for all that is to come.
- Finally, congratulations to the entire student body of Hine Junior High School. Yours is a "School of Excellence" because you have worked to make it so.

- The DOT employees in the audience have worked closely with you in the "Partnership in Education" program. And they are justifiably proud of this moment.

-- Now, on behalf of all 106,000 employees of DOT, I say "we are all very, very proud to be associated with Hine Junior High School."

- You might be the "Thrill on Capitol Hill," but where I work -- Hine is also "The Inspiration of Transportation."
- Commencement day belongs to the graduating seniors. This is your hour. It's a time to look back at all you've accomplished here at this Blue Ribbon School. It's also a day to look ahead.

THEME -- YES, I CAN

- Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan told a group of young people recently "it's important to keep your eyes on the prize."
- "Often," he said, "we believe others when they say we can't do something, or we can't have something in our lives. We must believe in ourselves and say, yes I can."

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- **Shamara Bullock** can afford to believe in a God-given ability to sing, as can all the members of the choral group who performed so magnificently at my swearing in ceremony.
- **Waseem Baig (Baag)** has confidence in his athletic prowess.
- And **La Kiesha Proctor** is someone who has succeeded against heavy odds.
- Each of you receiving a diploma here today already has excelled in many ways. Hine was your proving ground. Your diploma says "yes, I can." This has been the first step toward a good life.

THE NEXT STEP

- The next step is graduating from high school. Don't let anything stand in the way of it. Nothing!
- And don't stop with a high school diploma. Go on to higher education. I'm not saying college is meant for everyone. I'm not saying you have to enroll the day you finish high school.
- Many prospective employers will offer educational opportunities.

- Simply make some form of higher education a part of your long term plan and don't take "no" for an answer.
- Use the Michael Jordan philosophy -- keep your eyes on the prize. And in this case your prize is your future.
- If you have problems and don't know how to get to where you want to go in higher education, don't be afraid to ask someone. And ask someone else. And keep ON asking until you find the help you need. It is out there.
- But the first thing you have to do is finish high school. Take life one step at a time.
- And all of you truly can succeed. Every student here is able to excel at something. Find your God given talent and develop it. Any institution of higher learning would be honored to present you with a diploma.

THE NEXT STEP-DREAM BIG

- Look constantly ahead. Always look beyond the next goal to the next ... and the next. And remember the prayer of Michelangelo -- the Italian painter, not the Ninja Turtle. Michelangelo said, "Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish."

- A lot of work and some pain comes with big dreams. The worst pain comes when you look back and realize your dreams were too small.
- Now -- when you are filled with that special spirit of this occasion -- now is the time to dream big -- and match those dreams with equal measures of determination.
- If you combine dreams with determination, you will succeed.

CONCLUSION

- Finally, always carry some of the Hine spirit around with you. There is nothing like it in all of Washington, probably not in all the world.
- The Department of Transportation has been deeply touched by the Hine spirit. It is precious beyond measure. And it's all yours. Yours to use as a springboard to further success. Yours to draw on when you need it.
- Good luck graduates. God bless you...and God bless this great school.

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