



E-mail from a Project SUCCESS alumna and North High Graduate

Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010

To: Adrienne Diercks

Subject: My Eternal Gratitude

Dear Adrienne:

It's been so long. This email is painfully overdue. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the trip to New York [on a college tour] almost ten and half years ago. Adrienne, I was a little embarrassed about this at the time, but that sacred flight into JFK was my virgin voyage to rest of the world. I had never been outside of Minneapolis before that trip and it would be the precursor to so many other destinations around the globe for me; my very first steps into a brave new world.

Sometimes I have a hard time swallowing the socioeconomic leap that I've taken throughout the years. My childhood and upbringing has so little in common with those of my current peers and professional circles. As what was typical for North Minneapolis, my family life during high school was in emotional shambles with extremely limited resources. I had no solid examples to follow and my parents were apathetic to attending college. Somehow I managed to break the cycle of poverty and I wondered throughout the years, what was the vigor behind my resilience to succeed?

You were a great role model in my young life, lending me strength and offering me foresight to push past a dark legacy. Adrienne, all those hours of tutoring ACT, discussing Guthrie shows, and participating in college tours were not in vain. Those activities were instrumental in my young life, inspiring me to dream big and reach far. You took a risk, believed in me, and ultimately gave me the motivation and confidence to grow into the person I'm so happy to be today. I can never repay you for that unyielding support and endless inspiration you had given me, only remain eternally grateful and hope that one day I can change a life as much you have changed mine.

Thank you so much. Thank you, thank you, thank you.