



# *Congratulations* Class of 2012!

### THE PROUD, THE FEW, THE CLASS OF TWO-ZERO ONE TWO

With their friends and family looking on, over 400 Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) inmates proudly marched in to the tune of "Pomp and Circumstance" at NDOC's graduation ceremonies in Southern Nevada last week. Graduation ceremonies are often viewed as a rite of passage marked by ceremony and family gatherings. However, for NDOC graduates, graduation brings a new beginning, a chance to make good on promises made in locked cells. Moreover, for the families, it can be the proof of answered prayers.

Clark County School District (CCSD) Principals and NDOC Wardens welcomed guests, praised the graduates, and acknowledged the outstanding job done by faculty. Keynote speakers, CCSD Trustees' John Cole and Lorraine Alderman focused on the freedom to choose, the power of personal choice, and emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and giving back to their families, especially the children. One by one, the students were awarded qualifications ranging from certificates to degrees in different fields of study, to much applause.

For these graduates, their graduation day represented more than a step up the educational ladder; for many, it was a metaphor for the newfound ability to complete something. This may have been the first accomplishment in their lives where recognition was given.

The diplomas/certificates remind the students of the work yet to do, of the struggles that are surely coming. But for right now, it is the beginning of what comes next and how amazing it feels to have dreams again.

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THERE IS A GOOD REASON THEY CALL THESE CEREMONIES "COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES". GRADUATION IS NOT THE END; IT'S THE BEGINNING. ~ORRIN HATCH



THINGS TURN OUT BEST FOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF THE WAY THINGS TURN OUT. ~ART LINKLETTER

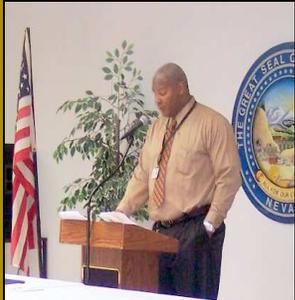


FLORENCE McCLURE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER (FMWCC) LT. TO RT. CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, CLASS OF 2012, MOVING OF THE TASSELS, CCSD TRUSTEE LORRAINE ALDERMAN GIVES KEYNOTE SPEECH WHILE CCSD ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, BRADLEY D. WALDRON, CCSD DIRECTOR, DR. ROBERT HENRY, AND CCSD PRINCIPAL, REID KIMOTO, APPLAUD. EACH STUDENT WROTE A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT THEMSELVES, COMMENTS INCLUDED, "I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE IT THROUGH THE MATH COMPETENCY!" "I DID IT!" "I WILL BE HOME SOON, MOM!"

THE PROUD, THE FEW, THE CLASS OF TWO-ZERO ONE TWO



HDSP WARDEN NEVEN



SDCC WARDEN WILLIAMS

HIGH DESERT STATE PRISON (HDSP) LT. TO RT. CLASS OF 2012, CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, CCSD TRUSTEE, JOHN COLE; CCSD ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, BRADLEY D. WALDRON; AND, CCSD PRINCIPAL, ROBERT T. TARTER, CONGRATULATE GRADUATES, AND THE BAND PLAYS ON!



"THINK OF YOURSELF AS A SUCCESS...YOU'LL BE SUCCESSFUL!  
THINK OF YOURSELF AS ACCOMPLISHED...YOU'LL ACCOMPLISH A LOT!  
THINK OF YOURSELF AS AN ACHIEVER...YOU'LL ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS!  
THINK OF YOURSELF AS BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING...AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T DO!" ~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN



SOUTHERN DESERT CORRECTIONAL CENTER (SDCC) LT. TO RT. CLASS OF 2012, CLASS REPRESENTATIVE, COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN NEVADA (CSN) COLLEGE GRADUATES, AND CCSD FACULTY GOES WILD!

## HAVING A GOAL: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

Having a goal isn't wishing. It isn't maintaining a wistful hope or a vague dream that someday you'll have or do or be that thing you keep telling yourself you want. No, having a goal is much, much more.

Having a goal means you have committed yourself, heart and mind, to achieving your aim, regardless of the effort it requires, the time it takes, or the difficulties that arise along the way.

To set a goal is to declare your fixed and unalterable decision to have, do, or be what you have named as your desire. You give yourself no escape clauses, you permit no distractions to move you from your course.

To have a goal is to have constant purpose and an unwavering dedication to whatever it is you want to attain. It's knowing, deep in your soul, that nothing can stop you because you have resolved that you will not be stopped.

To have goal is to be willing to endure setbacks and failures, and to continue your pursuit despite them. It's a willingness to face criticism, ridicule, frustration and doubt, and to persevere anyway.

To have a goal is to have faith when there's no proof of its justification; to believe in your eventual success, and the ultimate benediction of the universe, even when not a single supporting crumb is tossed your way.

To have a goal is to set your mind to planning and then to work steadily through your plans. It means tracking your progress, celebrating your successes, and learning from the things that go wrong. It's a willingness to roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty with the work of it.

To have a goal is to push your imagination further and deeper than it's ever gone before so you can see the details and the ramifications and the hidden possibilities. It's studying the ways others have done what you're hoping to do and applying what you learn from them.

To have a goal is to be stretched and challenged, to wake in the morning and fall asleep at night with the taste of your dream in your mouth. It's leaping before you're ready, daring when you're scared, and refusing to quit when you're discouraged because you feel its fire.

And in the end, when you finally achieve your desire and are basking in its glow, you will look back and realize the biggest reward is not the attainment itself, but what you've become along the way. That's what it means to have worthy goals. May your life be strewn with them. -*Written by Susan K. Minarik, author of "Winning the Tomorrow Game: How to Discover and Create the Life of Your Dreams"*

## COUNTDOWN TO NEW GED TEST IN 2014

The GED test used for the Nevada High School Equivalency test will be changing in 2014. The new test, aligned with Common Core State Standards, is being designed to focus on college and career readiness.

The new business, modeled to represent a public-private partnership, will retain the GED Testing Service name. The new GED Testing Service will build on its past experience in adult and continuing education by utilizing the considerable resources of Pearson, the world's largest education and testing company, to expand access to the GED Test, ensure its quality and integrity, and adapt the GED Test to 21st century testing practices. The three primary components of the "GED 21st Century Initiative" will include:

- new, more rigorous GED Test aligned with Common Core State Standards designed to ensure career- and college-readiness;
- national test preparation program featuring an expanding array of innovative and personalized learning resources; and,
- transition network that connects GED test-takers to career and postsecondary educational opportunities.

The new "GED 21st Century Initiative" will have two levels of achievement: the traditional high school equivalency standard, and a "career- and college-readiness" benchmark. The new GED Testing Service is to be based in Washington, D.C. The new entity will be governed by a board of directors comprised of four executives from each of the two partner organizations.



Look for Education Services Newsletter Special Summer Edition, celebrating NDOC's Northern Graduates.

&

Further discussion of the new 2014 GED Test implementation process.

"from cells to classrooms"