

SALUTATORIAN ADDRESS – Peter Heyboer

Good morning. I am honored to be here with all of my fellow graduates. I would like to thank all of the teachers and administrators at Insight School of Michigan for creating an environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed. It is because of this that I am standing here today.

Three years ago I would never have imagined graduating from high school. I spent my freshman year at a traditional high school and by the second semester, I was failing pretty much every class. I was always lost--confused about what I was supposed to study, what was due, and when the tests were. When I worked up the nerve to ask for help, I was told that I wasn't working up

to my potential, wasn't trying, and wasn't paying attention. The teachers always seemed annoyed with me. I came home every day and asked my parents when I would be old enough to drop out of school and get a job. That was my plan. I hated school and I was pretty sure that school hated me back.

My parents weren't impressed with the dropping out idea, so my sophomore year I was enrolled in Insight. They said it would be a fresh start. I looked at it as a last chance. I imagine that many of you ended up here for similar reasons: maybe you weren't doing well academically, maybe you didn't like being one student out of a thousand, maybe you just didn't fit in. However

we all found our way here, we now have something great in common: we made it! We found our way, worked hard, and earned our diplomas. We accomplished something great.

In retrospect, I think there's a good lesson here. When something isn't working out, giving up isn't the answer. There's always another path. In the future, we should remember this. If something isn't working, try something else. There's a solution somewhere--we just need to be persistent and creative and find our way. We should never give up on our dreams. We should keep trying even if we don't succeed at first. As we stand here

today, in our caps and gowns, waiting for our diplomas,
we are proof that dreams do come true!