



RJ Hudson, GST Michigan Works, Family Literacy Center, Youth of the Year acceptance speech

Today, I come before you with a story that might resonate with some of you—a story of resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education. Two years ago, I made the difficult decision to drop out of school in order to help support myself and my family. It wasn't a choice I made lightly, but circumstances demanded it, and I knew I had to step up to the plate.

For those two years, I worked tirelessly, taking on any job I could find, but still feeling like something in life was missing. It was a challenging period, filled with long hours and difficult decisions. But through it all, I knew deep down that education was the key to unlocking a brighter future for myself and my loved ones.

That's when I decided to pursue my GED. Yet, I knew I couldn't do it alone. That's where Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) came into my life. They provided me with the support, guidance, and resources I needed to navigate the challenges of earning my GED while balancing work and family responsibilities.

JMG didn't just help me academically—they also provided me with a sense of community and belonging. Their mentors became more than just advisors; they became friends and confidants, cheering me on every step of the way. And when I finally received my GED, it wasn't just a piece of paper—it was a symbol of hope, resilience, and the power of never giving up on your dreams.

To my fellow students, I want to say this: no matter what challenges you may face, never lose sight of your dreams. Education is the greatest gift you can give yourself, and it's never too late to pursue it. And to the teachers and mentors here today, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to helping students like me succeed.

As I stand before you today, a proud GED recipient and a testament to the life-changing impact of education and mentorship, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for the journey ahead. Thank you.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize the incredible support JMG provided beyond just helping me earn my GED. They truly understand that education is not just about obtaining a diploma—it's about unlocking opportunities and pursuing your passions. That's why JMG goes above and beyond to assist students in exploring and pursuing any career path they desire.



Whether you dream of becoming a doctor, a teacher, an engineer, or anything in between, JMG is there to help you every step of the way. They take the time to understand your interests, skills, and aspirations, and then they actively research and provide resources for potential job opportunities in your chosen field.

Thanks to JMG, I not only earned my GED but also gained invaluable insight into various career paths and the steps needed to achieve my goals. Their dedication to helping students explore and pursue their passions is truly commendable, and I am incredibly grateful for the impact they've had on my life and countless others.

So, to all the students out there, remember that your dreams are valid, and with the right support and guidance, you can turn them into reality. And to the teachers and mentors, thank you for your unwavering commitment to empowering students to reach their full potential. Together, we can achieve anything. Thank you.