

Graduation is today, I am waking up and comprehending that my high school experience is concluding, and then what? It appears as if everyone is attending college this upcoming fall, and I am the only one that is not. My classmates seem so optimistic, and enthusiastic for the four years to approach; taking on the world with full force. Everyone seems to already know what they desire to do for the remainder of their life and how to get there. Me on the other hand, I am not attending a university, I have no clue what I am going to do, or how I am going to do it. Principal Mederios inaugurates the opening statements at graduation. Subsequently, reality begins to set in, and this is genuinely occurring. Nonetheless, the administrators commence and call the names of our 2013 class. My name gets called and I walk across the graduation stage. I shake hands with the administrators and I pace off, sitting back down comprehending what is surely proceeding. The culmination of the graduation reaches, we heave our graduation caps, and we have definitively graduated, because I hear everyone shouting, cheerful, and laughing. I am to, but they are false smiles and laughs. I am not attending college. Then the ceremony has concluded. The “Real World” hits.

My parents have instilled in me the value of working toward something, and the desire to accomplish it on your own so that no one can say what you obtained is because of someone else. My parents are Mexican immigrants, my father arrived to this country at the age of 17 with nothing but the clothes on his back, five dollars in his pocket, and a dream to get his wife, and infant son beyond the outer slums of Mexico City. Having to sleep on park benches collecting cans until he was able to land a job and rent a low income apartment. Six months later he was able to bring his 16-year-old wife and 2-year-old over to the United States. When I was ten years old I was introduced to the concept to entrepreneurship. On the weekends my father would give me the opportunity to work for his landscaping company if my grades were suitable. I recall being with my father in his work truck after school because my mother was still at work, and my father driving to random houses to knock on doors and offer his landscaping services. Rejection after rejection, I asked my father “what if no one agrees to your services”? He calmly responded, “it does not matter how many people reject my services, the people who accept are the only ones that make a difference”. While working in the tremendous heat he warned me this career is what waits for me if I do not prepare myself adequately. From that moment I was determined to be an entrepreneur. Graduating high school, I joined a multi level marketing company, excelling and making \$3,500.00 in my first month by selling products and services. I realized I had a forte for selling, and the initiative fortified. Rejection after rejection followed, I revisited flashbacks from the weekends working with my father at his landscaping business. I pressed forward only concentrated on the yeses, and fine-tuned my approach after each encounter. At that instant, I decided to start working to open my own multi level marketing company, while simultaneously building my business with the other company. I accumulated thousands of dollars, and priceless experiences, and I decided on investing in myself, and developing an energy drink that would be my company’s main product. The beginning months were explosive, and sales were phenomenal. I found myself on the path to financial freedom, but it was only temporary. Following that, the business dramatically fell and dropped to a point of no movement.

When my father had to have knee surgery, he asked me if I could take over his subcontracting business at Nor-Tech, a Hi-Performance speed boat company in Forty Myers. As

I arrived to the factory one day, a client simultaneously parked next to me in a Rolls Royce Wraith. I immediately noticed how young appeared, yet he was able to afford something so lavish. I questioned him on what he did for a living, and he responded with being a real estate developer specialized in multi million dollar homes. He told me that he used to be a janitor in a financial firm until he was 25, had no post secondary education, and bought a one-way ticket to Florida from London, picking up odd jobs until he decided to get his real estate license. The following day I signed up to receive my real estate license. I completed the course and received my real estate license. After selling my first house two months later and averaging a transaction every two months, I realized through my successes and failures that being coachable and following a proven system can lead to success. Success is a point that each person determines for themselves. It can be a dollar amount, a position, a new life situation, a family, car or a house.

What is next for me? What will be my success? From all of my experiences I feel like its time for me to try my hand at something different and find a career that will lead me to financial freedom. Through all of my dealings I have noticed the growing role technology plays in every and all industries. From websites in real estate, robotic mechanics, and software, I want to position myself on the front line of this exploding trade and take advantage of the software engineering industry. I know with the right mentors and system I will be able to thrive as a software engineer.