

Transcript Dear Black Graduates: Life Advice from Your Neighbors

Interviewee: Kamal, Theresa, Darris, Derrick, Kalimah, Cory, Jaypix, Barbara, Milton, Nicole, Armand, Nicole, Laray, Nicole

Interviewer: Everyday Boston

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Abstract: A video of life advice for the future was created featuring members of Boston's older Black community for the Black graduating class of 2020 students of Boston Public Schools (BPS) in Boston, Massachusetts. The video was a virtual letter to reach not only those Black students graduating from BPS, but many others beyond their neighborhood. Each piece of advice was filmed by each individual community member.

Gina 00:04

Congratulations class of 2020. You did it. All of us at everyday Boston are so proud of you and can't wait to see how you use your voice to change the world for the better. We want to give a special shout out to Black graduates, as you're stepping into a world full of uncertainty and constant change, we've gathered some of your neighbors who have offered up a piece of advice to send you off into the next phase. Because in a world that does not value Black lives enough, we want to make sure that you know that we hear you, we see you, we are proud of you, and we will always be here for you.

Kamal 00:36

Congratulations on making it through. You did it! You know time for the next level, but I want to tell you don't give up. Life is gonna hit you hard. It's gonna come from every angle, every direction, at different times on different levels. But don't give up.

Theresa 00:51

The advice that I would like to offer you is something that I frequently need to be reminded of myself. And that is that there are people in this world who will prop up your talent, and promote you, and use your voice only because it makes them feel good about themselves. And I'm here to remind you, that when people recognize your talent, and they promote it, when they listen to you, it is because you are excellent.

Darris 01:19

Congratulations, class of 2020. I'm proud of y'all. But more importantly, you should be proud of yourselves. Just remember, as you're transitioning into this next phase of your life, that you didn't get to this point alone, that folks help to support you. So just remember that and remember that you have folks coming up behind you that you can now support. So much love to y'all.

Derrick 01:41

Life is a challenge. And you'll face obstacles, no matter on where you are in this world. But thing is that we're Black and we always rise.

Kalimah 01:50

On this Earth journey, you are not alone. You are the hopes and dreams of your ancestors. It is your passion, integrity, ambition, and audacity that honor their spirits, you matter.

Cory 02:06

Class of 2020, congratulations. It's a little bit of a different journey for you guys, but my advice to you is that everybody tells you to do more. So, my advice is for you to be more, act more, be more conscience of your community, be more active, and represent the underrepresented.

Jaypix 02:25

If I could give any advice, I would say no judgment. That's something that I live by, hold close to the heart. No judgement guys. Definitely get to know someone for who they are. And that starts off with a simple, "Hello, how you doin'?" The next thing I would say is, be free. Be free guys. Be a little more free with your love. And more free with your ideas. The world is ours together.

Barbara 03:01

Congratulations class of 2020. You are living in a very historical time. Learn your history and your heritage. Help each other don't hurt each other. You are the future.

Milton 03:13

One of the things that I recognize, clearly is that in our quest to live, we want much. I want to advise you to adopt what I'm about to say now. And that is that our getting is in our giving. So, you give, and you will get. Good luck.

Nicole 03:41

Congratulations, class of 2020. You are graduating into such an important time in this world. And I know that you're going to do great things to continue moving us forward.

Armand 03:52

You are graduating into a time the likes of which we have never seen. Embrace it and shape it.

Nicole 04:01

Advice for today and beyond, breathe. We don't realize when we stop breathing. Shut your mouth, breathe in through your nose. Fill your belly up. Exhale out your mouth, pulling your belly in. Keep taking these deep breaths so you can calm down. It will give you a minute, or a pause, a second to think before you act. Breathe.

Laray 04:34

Congratulations class of 2020. 2020, you're the vision. Keep your eyes on your prize and continue your legacy. Good luck with your future.

Nicole 04:44

Born and raised in Boston. I'm sure at one point or another you were faced with some type of uncertainty, some type of second guessing yourself, some type of self-doubt. But today, you are your own accomplishment. Today, you are labeled as a graduate. Congratulations, commitment got you here you can do anything you put your mind to. Congratulations graduates.