

Good afternoon and welcome to today's graduation ceremony. It is an honor to address everyone here and I would like to begin by congratulating the graduating seniors of the class of 2013. Though the road taken by these deserving individuals may not have been the traditional path of others, they have arrived here none the less in flying colors.

## Scott Kleinschodt



I would like to take a moment to give this deserving group of individuals one last piece of advice and quite frankly, this is something that we could all apply to our everyday lives. "...we have the opportunity to get an education and make something of ourselves. We have many reasons to hope for the great happiness, but we have to earn it. And that is something you can't achieve by taking the easy ways out. Earning happiness means doing good and working, not speculating and being lazy." This was a quote from Anne Frank and it is as true today as it was in 1944. If you want to make something of yourself, have the courage to dream big but also have the wherewithal to see it through. Set goals, work hard to achieve your goals, and never give up and in the future I hope to meet you again and hear stories of success.

On one other note, I would like to take a minute to recognize all of the good things that are also taking place in the school districts who support us. For those of you who are not aware, U.S. News and World Report released their annual top high schools of New Hampshire last month and everyone from Lincoln north is proud to say that we have six schools in the top twenty. What this really tells us is the support that the North Country communities have for the students in their school systems and for that support we must thank all of the families and friends who have joined with us today to celebrate this joyous occasion.

With that said I wish the best for all of the graduates today and would like to thank all of those who have supported our charter school for the past eight years.

## Stefanie Tardiff



Good Afternoon. My name is Stefanie Tardiff. My son Jordan is graduating here today. In 2011, he was given the opportunity to attend North Country Charter Academy. This school is a second chance for our young adults to get the education they need when high school struggles cannot be resolved.

The teachers that worked with Jordan took the time to know my son and helped restructure how he focused on his academics. Due to support and guidance of these great teachers, my son's hard work shined through and he sits here before me as a graduate of 2013. Mrs. Ryder, Mr. K. and Mr. Kelly—thank you for your dedication to my son and others like him.

North Country Charter Academy is an extremely important part of giving our young adults the tools for success in striving for a better life. I hope the funds needed for this school continue as it is a much needed program and it will help prevent our youth from falling between the cracks.

I would like to say "thank you" to Mr. Gary Bisson and Mrs. Delores Charest for supporting Jordan and being a part of making today a proud day for my son and my family.

Finally—to the graduating class of 2013—I hope you each leave this experience with inspiration and hope for the future. Congratulations to you all!