

Remarks of Ayana Mumford
Massachusetts High Tech Council Annual Meeting
February 16, 2010

Thank you Mass High Tech Council for having me here today,

My name is Ayana Anise Mumford and I am one of the juniors at MATCH Charter Public High School. I'd like to tell you a little about my school and my experience being at the school. I was accepted into MATCH in the lottery by sibling preference, because my brother Ed was a student there. He graduated from MATCH in 2008 and received a full academic scholarship to study mechanical engineering at Virginia State University. I am glad my brother won the MATCH lottery years ago because, as a result, I am able to receive a good education at MATCH. While it's a good education for me, let me tell you a few of the challenges the junior class and I face everyday.

I wake up at 5:30am at home in Roslindale to get ready for school. MATCH has breakfast at 745 and the first class of the day starts at 8:30am; however, for many of my fellow classmates and me, it takes an hour or more to arrive at MATCH by trains and buses because the school is in the north part of the city, in Brighton. When school has begun, juniors are taking: junior chemistry, Spanish 1, Advanced Placement Language and Composition, Advanced Placement U.S History, Pre- Calculus or AP Calculus. That's right—everyone, no matter where we started in grade 9, takes 2 AP classes and will take the 2 AP tests in May. Each class is very challenging and every junior works hard until 5:00pm; some are required to continue to work hard and stay until 7:45pm Monday through Thursday, and some choose to—I'm one of the students who chooses to stay late to do my homework at school where there are teachers and tutors and other students

to help. MATCH students are dismissed from regular classes at 12:30pm on Fridays, but we take a lunch break and come back to the school for SAT English and math preparation from 1:00-4:00pm. As for me, I hope to attend the University of North Carolina and to study chemical engineering, and also—because I play on the girls basketball team at MATCH and we like to win—I hope I get the chance to play at UNC too.

As I continue to tell you about our journey, I must say that not all of my classmates that started with me at MATCH are still there today. Many of the students that are not there, chose to make that decision, and some ended up regretting it. One of my friends Kingslea left MATCH the end of her sophomore year. She felt as though MATCH was a "force" as students say today. Kingslea now attends Hyde Park High and regrets leaving MATCH. Ever since Kingslea left MATCH she has encouraged students to keep hold of the opportunity provided, which means take and use the help that MATCH gives students to succeed in college and beyond. It takes courage, discipline, and perseverance to succeed at MATCH and in life. MATCH may not be a perfect school but the teachers and tutors do the best that they can do to help the students to succeed. And I also know that the school cares a lot about my family, because they are always keeping in touch with my brother in Virginia and my mom, who works at a Boston Pilot School. Thank you!