

## **The True Meaning of Success**

*As appeared in The Mount Olive Messenger, a Goldsboro News Argus Publication.*

Last week, our school held our annual awards day, recognizing students whom have worked hard over the school year. It's always a nice event and lots of students get a nice little reward before they have to hit the books for final exams.

I didn't win an award, but my girlfriend Crystal did and I couldn't be prouder. I absolutely have my personal biases, but I know that Crystal is very deserving and she has taught me a lot about taking advantage of opportunities and hard work. Crystal's parents are hard working, good people. Neither of them have a background in higher education, but Crystal has taken it upon herself to take advantage of every opportunity to learn during her college career. One of her professors described her as having gotten more out of her college experience than any student he had ever seen.

I know I'm raving on a bit and it may be a bit sickening, but I really have learned more from her than she knows. I know Crystal doesn't have a perfect grade point average. It's not necessarily her ability that determines success, it's her mentality, how hard she tries and works. And I think that is true in life. If you want it bad enough you can get it.

For the students that didn't win an award, keep your head up. And the students that did win stay humble. My dad once told me, never be too proud of yourself when you get something, but never get too down when you don't.

I can't believe how much I actually get out of what my dad says.

Have a great week.