

*Believe in Yourself!*

*To: Principle Keisha Douglas, Vice Principle Quincy Paynter, Tyrone McHardy, Trevor Haynes: and also Dr. Alshia Lugo, John Woolridge; Nikia Manders. And all those that performed at the Premiers Awards at City Hall. Thank you for having us at your “Future Fridays”... And; Graduations are in order to the class of 2020. To all the parents, grandparents cousins and friends . Some of you will be the first to graduate from college & university, some of you may be the first to graduate from Berkeley. Some of you, homework, football practice, dance class. Life long friends. You have joined a long line of Berkeleites some of which are here today.*

*Berkeley was established with 27 students. September 6, 1897. During that year there were 5,000 [prisoners of war](#) housed on five islands of Bermuda.1897. Professor Edward Laurens Mark founded the Bermuda Biological Station for Research when he brought a group of students to Bermuda by ship. Luitenant Savage surveyed the Island parishes with Markers of dark grey granite defined the parish boundaries and a number of these little monuments are still to be found.*

*I went to Berkeley 28 years ago. Now Berkeley is better place. Bermuda is a better place. Our Teachers used blackboards and white chalk, we used pencils and erasers, the internet was not even heard of. When I went to college I asked the question what is the internet? The answer was...“ Its an information highway that will do away with the encyclopedia” Now you have the internet in your school, I pads, smart phones, and your Premier is the youngest of all time. This year saw the highest number of visitors to the island than ever before.*

*Believe in yourself. This year will determine the rest of your life. Don't let others define who you are. Don't expect an employer to hand you a Mercedes bez, a penthouse suite and good looking secretary and high salary and say” Show me what you got!” 9 time out of 10 its not going happen that way. If you want to be good you have to take some scribbled on a napkin, interpret it, draft it, submit it to planning, develop it, build it to code, on time and under budget. If you can do that you can consider yourself good.*

*When we played at Dandy Town Andrew Bascome said that in his time there were no student athletes, one had to choose if they wanted to be an athlete or go to school. Now, Dante Leverock the Bermuda National Team captain said to tell you specifically he is pursuing his masters degree so that he has something to do after his has finished playing football. "Respice Finem." The average NBA career is 6 years. Major League baseball career is 5 years. The average NFL career is 3.3 years.*

*No longer do you have to aspire to be a helper or an assistant. Now you can be a Doctor like Alshia Lugo or a Lawyer like Berkeley Simmons or a Principle like Keisha Douglas or even a President like Dr. Duranda Green of Bermuda College. Bermuda College graduates are 3 times more likely to finish their degree. The College has affiliations with Mount St. Vincent University in Canada & Georgia State and Miami Universities in USA. I encourage you to utilize the facilities at your disposal.*

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