

Dear Young & Promising Minds of the Future,

I am writing this letter today to let you know that I have been where you find yourself now. I have walked in your shoes. Despite the adversity of being raised in a tough part of the coldest city in the world, Winnipeg, in a single parent family, with my Mother always too busy to be at the home, I cooked & cleaned & dreamed of a better day. I found role models in the media or in my extended family & I watched them from afar to use them for my own inspiration. The walk back home wasn't always easy. Sometimes the road was obstructed by challenges & temptations, whether they be racist calls directed at myself, drunken souls too lost to find their own way home now looking for a fight to make themselves feel more powerful or the promise of an easier road through the use of drugs & alcohol to dull the reality that surrounded me, I found the strength to stay calm & carry on. Then there were the family problems. It seemed I always had more than my fair share but I found a way to keep my chin up & march forward.. I focused my energies towards my studies & worked to pay for them after having been told there was no longer a place for me in my Mother's home. Through perseverance & a belief in myself with the inspiration of my role models I tried to follow in the good grace of God to guide me & sure enough there was a path to follow. I applied to Medical school with the grades I had earned & went to interview for a spot. I was afraid those spots might only be available to kids who had come from wealthy, stable families who I imagined were lining up 1 after the other for their interviews. I was wrong.

Let the principles of what is right and good guide you & you will surely succeed. Listen to your heart with these principles in your mind & you will find that which pleases you while also making a contribution to the society within which you live. There is a way. I know, I've been there. Hang in there. Hold on to these values. Let them shape you & doors will open up to make room for you to succeed in ways you never imagined.

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