

*Nobody Makes It through this Place by Themselves*  
Reflections of CPCS Graduates  
May 2010

*We all learned* to work with our fellow students, because *all* students need support, and they can admit it, and get it, at CPCS.

We can all help each other navigate systems beyond our walls,  
identify gaps and propose how to fulfill them,  
know that if one student can successfully navigate  
the system, others could too.

*We all deserve* awards.

*We all* reach out to people and go out and try to make a difference,  
to carry out social justice through community service  
to spread the word and to make a difference  
to connect, promote, and build community  
with spirit, empathy and passion

*Thank You, CPCS, for* being a place where

Everybody is like family, where

I learned as much from my classmates as from anyone here, where

I found an academic home, and a college that rivals any other  
in this city full of colleges...

I finally got the degree I didn't have the passion to achieve in my  
younger years, and where I learned what I wanted to learn and I *know*  
that I really deserve my degree...

for being place where I was both challenged and

allowed to hang on to my faith and make it stronger.

where I could come back to school after having lived fifty years and  
still was not made to feel old

*Thank you, CPCS*

for allowing me to be a member of this wonderful. wonderful  
community.

for giving me a great learning education, and for

encouraging me to take pride in myself and take chances

For helping me

write all the papers and to learn to be proud of them.

face many challenges and to appreciate that the effort and  
struggle truly helped me to gain knowledge and wisdom.

For helping me recognize the privilege of achieving my life  
long learning goals,

to find support as a single mom going back to school  
For pushing me to go to a demonstration (my first) downtown to  
protest the treatment of our college  
For being such a blessing and such a force in my life  
For saying “yes” so many times that I came to think I  
deserved it  
For helping me to see the people power in all of us.  
For making it hip for students to reach out to our communities  
For making a 23 year old white girl a minority and allowing her  
to learn all she could get from recognizing that reality  
For proving encouragement in an environment where I *know* I belong  
*I want to tell everyone* in U.Mass., in this City and in the world,  
that we are graduating because of CPCS’ willingness to recognize  
adults as people eager to learn about new people, new thoughts and  
new ideas, and  
what a privilege it has been to experience CPCS as a place that  
allowed us to open our minds to new thoughts.  
That UMB has one beacon outside and one inside – and that is CPCS.  
That America is a great country, one that allows a Black,  
Muslim immigrant woman to be the first female university  
graduate in her family  
That CPCS allowed me to open my eyes to the rest of the  
world, and to know that the labor movement is not dead.  
What a special wonderful place

*Just know that*

You have not got rid of me yet, I’ll be back for graduate school and  
more...I not only learned a lot but I had a tremendous amount of fun  
I thank the Lord because, even though it took me 28 years, I never gave up  
and I *will* be back for graduate school

I can now give thanks for this moment and go forward, knowing that  
CPCS is great college because of its incredible open door policy.  
You just don’t get your education inside here, you get it outside too

I first came in 1999 -- what journey I have made I have made since I  
came to CPCS. If I can do it at this age, anybody can do it  
Words cannot express what the faculty have imparted to us:

The mind, body, spirit course helped to bring me out of a doldrum and  
put light back to me. It helped me feel like a person again,  
Getting a degree took me forty years, but all my professors here encouraged  
me like no others anywhere

We know we are the soul of this place. We *will* stay connected.

Getting my degree at CPCS really blows my mind, it makes me feel like a good person who can accomplish my goals, and I never really believed that before.

May God forever bless you guys