ADULT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE HEADING TO SUNY BUFFALO WITH A LIST OF OPTIONS

Abu-Saeed Islam considering engineering fields, medicine, ROTC, and NASA

***Photo attached: Abu-Saeed Islam graduation portrait***

PATerson – A couple of days after the Adult High School’s virtual graduation, one of the graduates, Abu-Saeed Islam, took time out to thank one of his teachers who made a difference in his life, and to tell her where he will be continuing his education.

“I have been accepted to the University at Buffalo,” wrote Islam, referring to the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, N.Y. “I’ll be majoring in electrical engineering/computer engineering, pre-med. I am thinking about joining ROTC, too. Thank you for helping me to get back on track. I never thought I would get accepted to a nationally well-recognized engineering school, but your motivation has inspired me and assisted me to stay focused.”

The teacher Islam wrote to was Linda Veleber, a math teacher, who recognized Islam’s affinity for mathematics while he was her student at the Adult High School.

“When I realized his high level of math skills, I turned his math class into an SAT prep class for him,” Veleber said. “His hard work and perseverance are what brought him his success.”

“Students like Abu-Saeed remind us that a student has no less potential for success just because they follow a non-traditional path,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “I want to congratulate Abu-Saeed on his graduation and acceptance into SUNY Buffalo. He has some decisions to make about his major and other paths he may choose to follow. That is a very good thing, because a good education should provide a person with choices. I want to thank Ms. Veleber for her work in drawing out the best of her student’s abilities, Principal Nora Hoover for supporting Ms. Veleber in her work, and Abu-Saeed’s family for supporting him every step of the way to his high school graduation.”

Islam moved to Paterson from Bangladesh in 2018 when he was 19. Because of his age, he could not enroll in a traditional high school. While Islam was a guest on Passaic County Community College’s robotics team, he was advised by a professor about the Adult High School.
In an email this week, described himself as a patriot with many goals of serving the United States in the military and even NASA, naming Neil Armstrong and Elon Musk as two of his heroes.

“I really care about the economic and religious freedom that the United States has provided me,” Islam said.

Islam said that the Adult High School “works like a machine,” and like most machines it has essential parts, which were his teachers. While Islam was thankful to all his teachers, Veleber received his special thanks for helping him achieve an SAT math score in the 93rd percentile.

“Ms.Veleber has helped me like her own son,” Islam said.

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