

Overcoming a troubled past leads to a special trip to Washington

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• By: Jay Reynolds

TEMPE, AZ - An ASU senior got the chance of a lifetime.

Meeting the Vice President of the United States to show how community college changed his life.

From survival, growing up among the violent culture of gangs and drugs, to honor student at Arizona State University.

"Welcome to the first ever White House summit on community colleges," was the first line of Albert Ojeda's speech at the event.

That trip to the White House was a long journey for the senior.

"My father passed away when I was 5 years old, he was shot and killed. And my mother became addicted to drugs and was in and out of prison my whole life," Ojeda said.

Ojeda turned to education after his world turned on him.

"So I just decided, I'm not going to live that way," Ojeda said. "I wanted to better myself."

Starting his extended education at Estrella Mountain Community College, he used the programs to transfer to ASU.

A move which led to a meeting with the second lady Jill Biden in May of this year.

Which in turn led to an invitation to the White House summit on community colleges.

"They asked me if I would open up the session and introduce Dr. Jill Biden," said Ojeda. "Of course I didn't want to say no to an opportunity like that so I jumped at it."

While in Washington, Ojeda had the chance to meet Vice President Biden as well.

"He told me not to forget him when I'm president," Ojeda said.

A meeting and an opportunity Ojeda says he was honored to have.

And is a run for President of the United States in his future? Maybe.

"I feel like anything's possible so it definitely motivates me to work harder," Ojeda said.

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TELEPROMPTER BOUND.



I've often wondered how/why some kids turn out so beautifully IN spite of their parents and how/why some kids turn out so horrible TO spite their parents. I've seen wonderful parents nearly destroyed by their kid and then I see examples like this... [read more]

CanOrAz
11:01PM, Oct 14, 2010

If this guy genuinely wants a run at president... He'll definitely need a better diploma than ASU (honors or not).

ndaz15
7:27PM, Oct 14, 2010

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