**In Their Own Words**

**Words of Wisdom and Advice from Former Boston Public School Students**

**On Work Study and Employment**

*Right now, I don’t take my job seriously…It’s the way I make money. But for me, I feel like my school comes first. If I have to finish a paper and I’m working that night, I’ll find somebody else to cover my shift or I’ll just call out.*

*I worked in the dean’s office, working closely with the associate dean and academic coordinator and the professors in the building…Talking with them helped me to understand more about withdrawing or adding a course, the differences between departments, how they ran classes and coordinated rooms.*

**On Studying**

*Listening and absorbing, not just writing down what the professor says. I find that sometimes it helps to focus on listening and not writing.*

*I go over my notes, which is really helpful. And I remember what the professor is talking about. For example, I didn’t get the idea behind friction and force. So I read the book and my notes and it helped out.*

**On Getting Help**

*Let us know that college is going to be a lot of work. That it’s more your seeking out help and asking for help yourself, rather than people coming to you to help.*

*When I started faltering in my classes and realized I was getting bad grades, I realized I couldn’t do everything on my own.*

*[My academic advisor] was helpful and understanding…she gave me motivation to want to finish school, because sometimes I felt like I couldn’t do this, and I didn’t want to…go to school anymore. And, so…she helped out a lot.*

**On Time Management**

*I just thought about the amount of homework that I would get…for each class…So doing my schedule, I was thinking about time for eating, time for sleep, and the time to do my assignments. And then I also just tried to make time for myself.*

*You have to learn…you have to take breaks. You can’t just keep studying all the time. You have to, like, do this subject. Okay, now let’s take an hour break, and I’m going to do that subject. And then go back to the other one, and refresh my memory. And I always get a good night’s sleep.*

**On Finances**

*The financial challenges were always there. I had to buy books. In the beginning, I bought them at the bookstore, then on-line. Then at the end, I waited until I went to class to make sure I really needed the books.*

**On Giving Up**

*Last night…a bunch of…friends came over and I needed to finish writing on something and I couldn’t because everyone was over the house…That’s why I know if I need to study, I’ll just leave the house and go to the library…so I don’t have to go home and get distracted, even though it’s really hard sometimes.*

*My friends at school – we work in groups. We help each other get our grades up. I wanted to give up and relax. But they encourage me to keep going, and we keep going.*