

Iris Vasquez  
College Ready Academy  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Ms. Brewer

### “Who Do I Admire?”

The African-American individual who I most admire is my English teacher. Her name is Stacy Brewer, she is twenty-six years old, and her delight is teaching. There are various reasons why I admire her. She believes that to be successful in life one must be disciplined, dedicated, and make effort. Those qualities in addition to her vision, will, and most importantly God’s help have made her the person she is today. I admire Ms. Brewer for being a brilliant and successful woman with a future full of opportunities and blessings ahead of her.

As we all know life is not as easy as people sometimes make it seem. Very few people from my community graduate high school and even fewer attend college. According to a study made by Harvard University, only forty-seven percent of African-Americans in the Los Angeles Unified School District graduated high school with their class in 2002. About forty-three percent of African-Americans from twenty-five and above have a high school diploma, and about fourteen percent have a bachelor’s degree. Ms. Brewer encourages her students to become successful by having high expectations for her students and providing support during the tumultuous years of high school. Some teens drop-out when times get hard, and as a result they end up having an empty life with no future. Many teens start hanging out with the wrong crew, doing drugs, or gang banging, while others simply just end up pregnant. This behavior leads only to sorrow, regret, and self-destructive behavior; and even the family or people around are affected. The reason for so much violence these days is because these teens that drop-out of school at an early age. They do not have anything to do so their job becomes loitering on the streets committing crimes

for a living, or simply to do harm. Ms. Brewer provides an alternative to these students by providing after school activities such as tutoring and dance classes.

Ms. Brewer has worked extremely hard to build a successful future for her and her future family. It has not been an easy task to accomplish what she has accomplished so far, yet Ms. Brewer is working hard to accomplish her future goals. She has faced many obstacles in her childhood, adolescence, and now in her young adulthood, but she has learned how to overcome them. She comes from a single parent family, she is an African-American female, and she is the first one from her family to graduate from college. Her mother was a drug addict, her father an alcoholic, and to make the matter worse, she had to suffer the absence of her brother fearing he might be killed while he was in Iraq. She witnessed many times the effect of drugs from watching her parents abuse drugs. Although, she was a victim of drug abuse she has successfully overcome all those obstacles; she beat the odds. Ms. Brewer really did not have the full support of her parents to educate her about life and encourage her to choose a career path. Most of the time her mother was under the effect of drugs and her father did not live with her, so it made it difficult for her as a young girl to leave all those things aside and focus on school; however, she graduated high school with a 3.7 grade point average.

Ms. Brewer had her first job at the age of eleven when she was in the sixth grade. She had to work at her grandmother's cookie shop everyday, no exceptions, after school from three to six in the evening. She had to prepare one hundred fifty muffins and one hundred sixty cookies on average by herself every day, getting paid only twenty-five dollars a week. Even though she worked hard after school, she had to find time to complete her homework, to study, and prepare for school. This did not discourage Ms. Brewer, but instead it made her stronger and encouraged her to work harder each day to accomplish her goals. She decided to be different than her parents and set a positive example for others.

Leaving her past behind her, Ms. Brewer moved to Los Angeles to attend Cal State Northridge and was granted her bachelors degree in Liberal Studies. She is currently attending National University where she received her master's degree in Cross-Cultural Studies, and her teaching credential. She wishes to attend University of Southern California to attain a master's degree in family therapy (MFT) to accomplish her long-term goal of becoming a high school counselor. Ms. Brewer is an excellent teacher at a prestigious school, College-Ready Academy High School, where all the students are prepared to succeed in college. She enjoys her job, she loves all her students, and she strongly believes that education is extremely important to succeed in life. Ms. Brewer declares, "Anyone who wishes to become successful in life needs first to become educated." Ms. Brewer encourages all her students to set goals and meet those goals. She believes she was put on this earth to teach. To teach students not to give up and accomplish their goals leaving aside all the obstacles they may endure during their career. To teach people how to make responsible decisions and to predict the outcome or the end result of those decisions. She is a spiritual person; even though she does not go to church she has a strong relationship with God and she knows she could not have accomplished all that she has without God's will. Ms Brewer always says, " Everyday I come to work I do so knowing that I may change someone's life, and those are the moments that make teaching worthwhile."

Ms. Brewer is twenty-six years old, is an African-American female, and is a successful woman, yet she is not satisfied because all what she has accomplished so far is not the end, instead it is just the beginning to a whole new adventure. She has a successful future waiting ahead for her and most of all she has a future full of success to offer her children. Who would not admire someone who is a wonderful example to society? Well I DO!!!