

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen and congratulations to all of you on your induction this evening. You've worked hard for the privilege to become members of an honor society.

This ceremony pays tribute to and represents what truly makes a well-rounded individual and embodies the spirit and philosophy of Conchita. Having the ability to function fully and be well-versed in integrating the mind, the heart and the spiritual is the essence of humanity. The joining of academic knowledge with art brings about culture, which is the foundation of all civilization. The students on this stage tonight excel in one or more of these aspects of humanity. They are here because they are examples of the best of what it means to be human. Each one of them demonstrates that we are intelligent, strong, creative, responsible, caring, and, most of all, unique. They are the leaders of the future, and they join the ranks of those who will continue to make this world a better place.

When I was a student here at Conchita, I looked forward to coming to school every day because I knew that it would be no different from being at home. The people here are my family, and I'm as comfortable in one of the desks in any of the classrooms as I am on my couch

at home. I was honored when my teachers chose to induct me as a member of NJHS because it proved to me that I was successful that all my work was for a reason. To me, being a member meant belonging to an elite group of students within my Conchita family. It meant being part of a group of people that will eventually go on to be leaders in the real world, and be the kind of people whose words and actions have a real impact and make our world a better one for all.

(look back at inductees) I wish I could be one of you, still walking through these hallways every week, sitting in class listening to Campi's lectures or reading *Romeo and Juliet* with Ms. Julio. Many of you are probably wondering what's wrong with me, why I would want to be back here, but that's just because you haven't graduated yet. Once you're in high school, you'll realize just how much you've left behind. You'll miss the bonds you had here, and when you get together with friends at parties and getties, you'll find yourselves reminiscing and reliving the memories you made here. You will realize that these treasures are securely lodged in your heart. Thank you.