

My name is Mel Scott and it is truly an honor to be here tonight to speak on behalf of the Northridge students.

A role model is someone who always puts the other person first, and does the right thing no matter what others may think. I always look up to those older people who are outgoing, and willing to help someone. Role models are those people who are always there to help you and make sure you do your best. I believe the greatest mentors and role models are those right around you, and that is very true of this Northridge community. One thing I have learned while growing up here in Northridge is our community is filled with admirable role models, some of which are sitting here among us tonight being inducted into the Hall of Fame. What an amazing accomplishment!

As a high school senior my definition of success is setting goals, and putting out your best effort in order to achieve them. Achieving success is in fact a journey. Like all journeys, your ship will sail through calm waters, and at other times experience terrible storms. If you stay focused, and continually upgrade your ship, you will eventually reach your harbor of dreams. I have been through a lot in the past seventeen years, and have sailed through plenty of storms. Through all the trials and storms, I have learned that you must always keep your head high, and keep trying your best. You must always keep persistence in order to complete your journey. You can't just abandon your ship once you run into a reef, but you must keep building one ship after another until you finally reach your destination. So in a sense, success is a process. It is a constant change of a strategy until something finally works out.

This is why role models are significant in student's lives, especially as they begin their careers. Role models teach us, and guide us down the path of success. Aristotle once said, "He who has never learned to obey cannot be a good commander". It is important that students listen to role models, and learn from them. As Aristotle reminds us we must learn to obey before we can become a good commander or leader. This is why I am honored to be able to recognize, and congratulate the 2009 inductees.

Mr. & Mrs. Davidson, for all the volunteering you do to help our community and its youth. You are both remarkable examples of good role models for putting forth so much time. I am sure plenty of the children and their families look up to you and truly appreciate your contributions.

Mr. Robert Harris, your dedication to the parks and recreation has truly helped the community in which you live. This service has helped to better the lives of the families in those communities. It is important to lead by example and show people the importance of our environment.

Ms. Mullinix, as one of your former students, I can honestly say you are an excellent role model. Your involvement in the Kiwanis Club, and other organizations has truly made a difference in the community. I know you have truly touched many young hearts in Northridge, and many other places.

Mr. John Riley, I think it is awesome that you finally lived out your dream, and rode your motorcycle to Los Angeles with your wife. This is a perfect example of how we are never too old to dream, and just because you may not achieve your goals right away, you should never ever give up. You are a great example of this, and this truly makes you an amazing role model for people both young and old.

Mr. Robert Sheehan, all of the things you have done to better prepare and encourage the young men and women of Northridge is truly a blessing. It is because of people like you that many young men and women don't give up, and get the chance to start a career. By coaching, counseling, and being involved with many communities and organizations you truly shine as an astonishing mentor and role model.

Last, but certainly not least, Mr. Jim Weikert. It makes me so glad to know that someone who knows so much history, and was so involved in this community is being inducted into the 2010 Hall of Fame. From the Polar Bear Restaurant, to owning your own enterprise, it is amazing the amount of contributions you have made through the years. It is so true that you should always find time to give back to the community no matter where you may live. Your advice, and the positive example you have set make you a role model to not only myself, but also many other people.

I would like to say thank you so much for all of the amazing things you have done and accomplished, and to congratulate you for being inducted into the Northridge Hall of Fame Class of 2010. Thank you and God bless.

Northridge Senior,

Mel Scott