

## Yes We Can. Yes We Did. But, Will We?

### A message from the CEO

It's hard to find a college student who is not euphoric about the outcome of the nation's historic election; yet, there are messages that need to be heard so that the significance of this seminal moment in history will not be lost. Indeed, as celebrations continue, let us also accept another message from the President -Elect that we don't have a moment to lose. It began with "Yes we can", continued on to: "Yes we did". And now the next response must be: "Yes we will." My question for you is: yes we will what? First, let's completely understand the significance of the moment; it could not have happened without the full tapestry of American voters.

Specifically, Barack could not have won with votes from African Americans only, even if every one of us had voted for him, and not all of us did. White people from Nebraska voted for him, though he didn't carry the state. Americans of Hispanic descent voted for him. People defined by lower, upper and middle class standards across this land voted for him as well. From west to east, north and yes, south, folks who believe that change is possible and that we can all share in the American pie voted for him. And, you young people came out in droves. Congratulations! You worked the polls; listened well to both sides of the candidates' arguments; and, some of you, like me, cried when he said to his daughters: "Sasha and Malia, you will get the new puppy."

On an even more personal level, I am proud that CCS students took the time to vote, and, like many, waited respectfully as long as it took to perform your civic duty. It was an investment in the future and one the college educated is expected to make.

Because you are so young, you may not fully appreciate, as we older folks do, the enormity of the opportunity to vote for a Black man, had you so chose. It's something you will one day explain to your children. Now, there's not a moment to lose. If you want to see change, you must become a part of it and not sit on the sidelines waiting for change to materialize.

In one of his campaign speeches, the new president-elect suggested that, for starters, young men should pull up their pants. It's a small thing, but a gesture you can make to honor the moment. Like NIKE says: "Just do it." Do it for Obama. Do it for Mom, your minister or Auntie. Better yet, do it for yourself.

Another of President-Elect Obama's clear messages that we must not miss is that it is going to take time to make the necessary changes, ones that will be made on behalf of all Americans. Moreover, he posited improvements to the economy, health care, the environment, education and the rest, will take time. Therefore, he warned that we shouldn't expect change overnight or even during the next four years.

Lastly, he spoke of personal responsibility. I was thrilled because it defines Concordia's MAN mantra: "Man Up." Like many young folks today, Obama didn't have a father in the home. He was often left in the care of his grandmother and he did not lead a trouble-free life. This message we cannot let slip away. Yes you can and yes you did. But, can you lose the excuses, move forward and proclaim: "Yes we will"?

Concordia, this is a defining moment in your life. Hold onto the message. There's not a moment to lose.

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