

What have our friends and family taught us? How about our country, our community, or even our employers? One of the most important things we have learned has been commitment. Commitment is something everyone needs in order to maintain relationships, meet goals, and be successful at all tasks. Looking around today, it is easy to see who is committed and who is not and it is also easy to see how the lack of commitment affects our lives and the lives of those around us.

I think that maybe the most important component is being committed to friends and family. If we are not committed to these people, what else can we be committed to? You scratch my back; I'll scratch yours. This is a philosophy we have all heard. If a friend or family member needs help with something, we should help them. On the flip side, we should expect that those same people will be there to support and help us when needed. That is true commitment to family and friends.

The second most important component is in the area of work and work ethic. We need to be committed to work in order to keep our jobs, support ourselves, and represent our employers in the best way. This means we must be on time for work and not make excuses such as traffic backups, faulty cell phone alarms, and car trouble to name a few. Remember, employers do not expect notes from our parents as to why we were late. Commitment to work also means making certain we are prepared each day. That means we need to have our tools, meet our project deadlines, or simply remember to wear our name tag each day. I have been a co-op employee all year having the pleasure of working with my Dad's business. During this time, I am constantly dumbfounded by the lack of commitment in the workplace. I have my Dad to thank for showing

me strong work ethic and how to show people that I care. As the class of 2010, we need to take pride in the work we do.

The next area of importance is commitment to country and community. Each day we watch the news and see limited coverage of our military serving our country. At times, we take our freedom for granted. Like many Tech graduates before me, I have chosen to serve my country and have selected the National Guard. Some of us will be leaving to join the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, or the National Guard. Some of us will be active duty and some of us will be in the reserves, and I wish my fellow classmates well in this decision. We don't all have to join the military to have commitment to our country. History shows us that not many Americans exercise their right to vote. We can prove our commitment to country by making certain we vote in elections after carefully reviewing the candidates and allow our voice to be heard. In addition, making certain we are involved in our communities makes a huge difference in many people's lives. It comes naturally for many of us to be involved and I encourage all of my classmates to find one area where we can dedicate time and service. We have learned much about community during our time at Tech through all of our fundraisers and by watching our Building Construction Shop travel to areas of need in our country. Consider being a member of an organization, cleaning roadways, firefighting, holding public office, or volunteering time at nursing homes, local shelters, or schools in order to help others. Not only do we help others by doing this, it also makes us feel better as people.

This is what commitment means to me. It may mean something different to you or it might have a similar meaning. Commitment involves being there for our friends and family and getting involved in our community and country. I encourage all of us to learn from the positive role models of commitment around us. As we enter our lives after high school tonight,

remember that our commitment to those around us and ourselves will better our lives and will help us in achieving all of our goals.

On behalf of the Class of 2010, I'd like to thank the staff at Dauphin County Technical School, all of my classmates, and our parents and guardians for teaching us what commitment is, so that we all are able to become successful adults in today's world. Thank you.