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to climb, or is it—obviously, if 900 kids are going, they've had pretty good success passing the courses.

Dr. Badgley. It's a very popular program, and the students—the program is open to high school juniors and seniors who have a 2.8 grade point average and the recommendation of their principal or their counselor to participate in the program.

The President. Yes, that's neat. What are you doing for worker training? Can you share some of the ideas with the citizens here in this community about why you're important and useful and necessary?

[*Dr. Badgley made further remarks.*]

The President. Yes. See, I like to tell people the community college systems are available, affordable, and they're flexible. In other words, they're able to change their curriculum in order to meet the needs of the job requirements or the job needs here. And it's a really good asset. And the thing that's so impressive about the utilization of this good asset is they hooked up with a high school—high schools here. So people have got all kinds of opportunities.

Listen, I hope you're as optimistic about the future of the country as I am. You just heard some, I think, incredibly positive news about your community. You've got people who are raising the bar, people who are making sure that the course load is relevant to the jobs of the 21st century, people who are using the asset base, the education asset base, in a wise way to make sure that every child has got an opportunity to realize the great promise of the country.

We live in the most fabulous nation on the face of the Earth, and one of the reasons why is because we're a nation that believes in the worth of every person, regardless of their background. We're a nation that believes in the potential of every person. We want every child to learn to read, write, and add and subtract. We want every child to have the curriculum necessary to be able to realize his or her dreams. That's what we want in America.

We're also a great nation because we've got fantastic values. And one of the values we hold dear is the value of freedom. We love our freedom. We understand our freedom. We will never relinquish our freedom.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:58 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Lance Cpl. Stephen Ferguson, USMC; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Statement on Senate Passage of the Proposed "Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act"

May 13, 2004

I am pleased that the Senate passed the "Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act," which would continue to build on the great progress we have made in helping children with disabilities achieve their full potential. By working together to open doors for citizens with disabilities, we can help fulfill the promise of our great Nation.

This legislation will further promote educational opportunities for children with disabilities. I am committed to working together with students, parents, teachers, schools, and communities to ensure that all children are given every chance to learn and to reach their full potential, including children with disabilities.

I urge the House and Senate to meet in a timely manner in order to reach agreement on a final legislative package that I can sign into law this year.

Executive Order 13339—Increasing Economic Opportunity and Business Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

May 13, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and for the purpose of providing equal economic opportunities for full participation of Asian American and Pacific Islander businesses in our free market economy where they may be underserved and thus improving the quality of life