

Bryant Caba, a sociology major with a criminology concentration, will join Sanchez working at a mortgage firm in White Plains. "Hopefully, this degree will take him a long ways," said Sanchez. He graduated from SUNY New Paltz last year. "If you write anything, tell kids 'Get your degree.' You got to stick with it."

Aidan Quinn, the actor who gave the keynote speech yesterday, told the graduates it was ironic he got an honorary doctorate of arts degree yesterday. He was a college dropout.

"I called my parents and said 'I am done with college. I want to be an actor and college just ain't for me,'" he said.

His mother pleaded with him to change his mind. He

did not. But he would argue against skipping college now with his own children, he said.

It's worth it, said Vincent McAdams, 28. He graduated from SUNY New Paltz in August with a degree in marketing. Already he has a job working in sales at a firm in New York City.

"It was definitely a good experience," McAdams said.