ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS

SPEECH FOR

ROWENA ZHANG

A man named Brian Tracy once said, “**Teamwork** is so important that it is **virtually impossible** for you to reach the heights of your capabilities or make the money that you want without becoming very good at it.” Ladies and gentlemen, I am Rowena Zhang and I am thrilled to present myself as a national officer candidate for Business Professionals of America! Talk about teamwork! BPA, as we all know, is the leading CTSO for students like you and me, with an interest and passion to set goals and aim high as we network, hone our skills and prepare for our (hopefully) distinguished careers in the business world. I believe in this organization and the opportunities afforded to all of us who show intelligence, interest, determination and integrity, all qualities needed to maintain an effective team and have a successful and meaningful career.

I have learned through my experiences that “there is no one else out there,” and if I want the job to get done, it’s that person in the mirror who better step up, take responsibility and get it done! (**Say this with enthusiasm and make believe you are primping in the mirror, if you like. You can make believe the microphone is the mirror and pretend to look into it**). BPA is a great organization and I believe that my tenure as a national officer will be well spent as I work with my colleagues across the country to build and learn from, a team of intelligent, responsible and committed students as we work in unison to construct the virtual ladders that will support each of us to scale new heights of achievement.

I propose a 3-pronged plan to sustain and enhance the membership of BPA and its impact on the youth of America. Here’s a taste of the plans I would support:

* Adopt-A-State Program: To encourage communication and connection, each national officer will be assigned to a list of states to contact on a regular basis through emails.
* Start a Virtual Chapter Program in Secondary Division: This year, the post-secondary division started the virtual chapter program to increase membership. I believe secondary division would benefit and grow from this as well.
* Connect with Post-Secondary Division as a means to prolong the positive impact and benefits of BPA well beyond our high school years. Let’s find a way to expand this great network well past graduation!

Although each of us has such a brief time to speak up here today –and those who know me know that I could go on and on and on for **quite some time**… (**Say this with exaggeration and wait for the laugh**) I hope you can all see how participation in this organization really does prepare each one of us to possess the skills and poise essential to successfully navigate the workforce of our future. I look forward to achieving unimaginable heights in my career and I really look forward to serving all of you as a national officer here at BPA as we all plan and prepare for success. Thank you all!