**Rahman Habibur:**

 **Suffolk County Community College Associate Graduate’s speech**

***Stand at podium and wait for the audience to quiet down and give you their attention*.**

**Hello everyone, this is a very exciting day for all of us. I can see looking around this hall here at Suffolk so many who feel the same joy as I feel. I can see it in your eyes, I can see it in your smiles, and I can see it in your family and friends who are sitting all around you. And that pride can also be seen in the Suffolk County Community College leadership, administration, and faculty, *(point to the college faculty and administrators and smile)*, who are also here today.**

**Suffolk has been educating undergraduates since 1959. Today, as in the past sixty years, we as new graduates all have a story of how we arrived at this point, how we got here, who helped, and who inspired us to work hard so we could hold this degree in our hands. A degree that will shape our futures, our careers, and the wellbeing of our families.**

 **If you allow me just a few minutes, I will be very proud to tell you mine. I share this moment with my wife, my son, my family, my relatives, my friends, and everyone here at Suffolk who participated in giving me the courage and strength to keep on going through difficult times.**

 **2.**

 **We arrived here in this country over ten years ago in hopes of a better life, and we found that. But it was not just handed to us, we had to earn what we needed and wanted. Just like anywhere, we had to have a home and food, and that took money. I worked, studied, and with the help and encouragement of my wife and relatives, we did it. Especially to my wife, who through these last ten years believed in me, and encouraged all my efforts.**

**But sometimes it seemed like I needed not 24 hours each day, but 34 hours each day to do what I had to do. Besides studying, being a father, and a husband, I worked long hours. I stand here before you today not only as a Computer Information Systems graduate, but also as a ‘donut’ expert, so thanks to Duncin’ Donut for giving me my job. In addition to Duncin’ I also remember the finance people who had enough confidence in me to give us loans, and I will never forget them too, as they also provided the path to my accomplishment.**

**None of this today would be without Suffolk County Community College, one of the academic leaders is Associates Degrees in the entire eastern United States. Suffolk’s major in Computer Information Systems provides an education that qualifies us to work for the best companies or institutions anywhere in the world. Suffolk also provided me with the opportunity to understand the world, cultures, and community leadership, through a Romanian scholarship I attended last summer. Suffolk also enabled me to work in the field, work hands on, through participating in a Brookhaven Lab’s internship. Suffolk has historically graduated men and women who have made significant contributions in business, education, science, technology, and humanities. And we as the newest members of their Alumni will carry on that tradition, through our own hard work to keep the Suffolk legacy flame alive and bright.**

 **3.**

 **There is one more thank you I want to express, and that is to my father. My father’s dream was for all of us to be happy and successful in our new life here. My father gave me so much. He is no longer with us, but I know he sees me now. He can see that he taught me how to work, how to be a father myself, and how to be a good man to my wife. I miss him very much, and I hope he is proud of me, his son, this day.**

**If you remember any of what I have to say this morning, please remember those who had the courage to believe in you, those who took a chance on your success. Those who loved you enough to help you keep going to the finish line. Yes, you did the work, but they held you up when you were tired, when you were discouraged, and when you felt like quitting. As you go forward now and succeed in life from here at Suffolk, thank them again, share your successes with them, help them when they need help, and let them know they will be forever in your heart.**

 **Thank you.**