

Elijah's Story

Stars - National Excellence Awards Speech

E muamua ona si'i le vi'iga ma le fa'afetai i le atua
(I'd firstly like to praise and thank god)

Malo e lelei, talofa lava, bula vinaka, fakalofa lahi atu, tena koutou tena koutou katoa,
hello and greetings to you all

My name is Elijah John Amituana'i. I am a year 12 student at Kelston Boys' High School and like many of you here today, I have been given an award. This award was for excellence in peer mentoring.

I accept this award with gratitude and humbleness. I'd like to give thanks to my mum, Katrina and dad, Junior, my sister Madison and my grandparents Siauala and Matelina and Rita and Colin. I give thanks to all my other family members and their contributions to my life, of which I can't name all of them otherwise we'd be here for 20 years.

I give thanks to my teachers and mentors throughout my years of education who have guided and nurtured my mind and my decision making. Of these mentors and teachers, I give thanks especially to Saronna Auina, Last Man Sooula, Keri Bell, Daniel Samuela, the mentors of the Tulai Ngaue leadership programme and the nonprofit organisation lead and of last but definitely not least I'd like to thank Oliver Periata for his help throughout the peer mentoring sessions. These organisations and people have made the person you see here today.

At Kelston Boys' we have a saying "Leave the Jersey better than how you found it". This saying implies that someone should leave the school in a better way than when they first arrived. I, myself wanted to find a way in which I could do this not only effectively but in a way which would help the boys I'm leaving the school too. Now of course I wasn't the smartest or the fastest or the strongest, I wanted to find a way to leave my own mark on the school something that would make me stand out

amongst my peers. I then discovered the peer mentoring. From what I learnt about it, I saw that it could improve both my leadership skills and I believed it would teach me how to properly lead a group of people and allow me to help them grow as individuals. This would allow me to become a better leader and a better person.

This award shows me that I have been able to improve upon this skill greatly and that I am capable of doing this for my school and doing it justice.

I am forever grateful for this award and the opportunities it, thank you for listening to me.

Manuia le aso
God bless



We want every child to know: What they have inside is greater than any obstacle.