

My name is Joshua Aivan Soldevila. I believed that I had a normal upbringing as a kid and found out the hard way that it was far from it. I remembered days where I had been kicked out of two daycares and two kindergartens because I was an aggressive or demon child. I'll remember the times I got beat as a child by a man who I believed was my father for looking like the man that was actually my father. I'll remember the amount of times I'd been told that I wasn't going to be anything or go anywhere in life and would become a drug dealer, put in jail, or die early on in life. I remember the weeks I had to sleep in a car with my mother and just born sister in a car because my mom couldn't work or she would get beat by my sister's father. I remember the faces people would make when they would read my file since it portrayed me as this "thing". I'll remember the times I wanted to be a part of sports team, but wasn't allowed to because of money trouble. I remember going to a school that was supposed to help me and on the first day I had been hospitalized because I couldn't control my emotions. I'll remember the numerous times I was placed face first on the ground because I was "acting out". I'll remember all the times I went to sleep afraid that I was never going to see my mom again because of the way my sister's father treated her. I'll remember the first time I met my real dad and my sister's father who had introduced me to him, had pulled me away from him. I remember the phone call my mom received when my real father had been murdered. I remember the beating she received for crying about my father's passing. I remember the argument my mother and grandmother in which I was not allowed to see my own father buried. I remember the constant yelling within the house which seemed "normal" at the time. I remember my sister's father leaving the house and telling me that I would be just like him when I grow up. I remember the depression my mother went through in which I had to assist her through. I remember the times where I had to put fun aside since I had to help take care of my sister. I remember the time where I wanted to cry and let all the hurt go, but couldn't because "that's not what men do". Or the time where I seen my real father figure almost die in front of me at the age 7 because he was having a stroke. Even though I've had many hardships I wouldn't change it at all. All of these hardships have molded me into the young man I am today and it's helped me make the decisions that I wanted to make. One of which was coming to Tunxis Community College. At first I felt that it was a place I will go just to be used as a stepping stone to get to my next road. Now I feel that I can really call this place home and what I see is what I want many students to see. Times that I felt like I was down I was able to find someone help me out here even if it was just for period of time. I've had many fun laughs and met many great people here to which I can genuinely say I care about deeply. Through all the bad my life has been through Tunxis is one of the areas in which I can say is a plus and I'm positive that other students feel the same. I want to share this feeling with everyone and make this feeling be the new normal for everyone. At Tunxis I was able to become the SGA President thanks to a lot of help from people that supported me and believed that I deserved that position. I ended up getting a job at the IT Helpdesk which I enjoy working at so very much since I'm able to help out many people, faculty and students alike. I plan so many events that I hope the students end up liking in which they do. We always have great events such as the Halloween Party which was a big success again this past year. There was the Wing-It Wednesday which was a huge success and brought many students together and many of which became friends. I just had a very successful fundraiser in which we raised over \$5,000 in support of Puerto Rico and Australia, thanks to those students and staff who were able to support something that many believed in. I could go on and on about the events that we hold here, but that would take forever since they all have two things in common. Here at Tunxis we bring people together and enjoy the time we spend together. When I came into office as an SGA Officer one of the visions that I wanted to see at the school was for us to be a community and I can for sure say that I see that vision coming

together very well and what makes me even more happy is that I'm not the one doing it. It's everyone's effort helping and making this vision a reality. This is why Tunxis is such a great place to be and why many students should take the opportunity to come to Tunxis and say proudly that they are a Tunxis student the way I do. If I could go back in time and talk to my past self about where I want to start my college career, I'm sure we would both say Tunxis Community College. Thank You.