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**ANDREWS TELLS FALLS STUDENTS TO BETTER SELVES, COMMUNITY
TALKS ABOUT COLLEGE, CAREERS, AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

NIAGARA FALLS—When Kyle Andrews was elected to the Niagara County Legislature in 2001, he was one of the youngest elected officials in New York state.

In fact, he hadn't even finished college.

Now, at the age of 30, he sees the opportunities that await students if they are just take a chance on going to college. And that's a big part of the message he was carrying when he visited Participation in Government classes at Niagara Falls High School Wednesday after Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County officials asked him to talk with students about drawing a roadmap to personal success.

Of course, he also talked with students about his duties as a county lawmaker, a town attorney, and a JAG officer in the U.S. Army Reserve.

But again and again, his talk went back to how students could best help their community by helping themselves first and furthering their educations.

"It was a phenomenal opportunity," an ebullient Andrews said after speaking to a classroom filled by more than 40 students. "These high school seniors are looking to the next level, whether it's to the workforce or to college and other career opportunities. It was really great to interact with them and let them know that there are some exciting career opportunities out there, both in law and in government."

Andrews found himself answering questions on everything from the process of making laws as a county legislator to what kind of a money soldiers in the Army Reserve and National Guard can make for their part-time commitment. He also found himself talking a lot about various options for students looking to go to college, even if their families don't have the means.

"Seniors in high school coming from a school district like Niagara Falls—there are many, many opportunities for them," Andrews said. "It was nice to talk with the seniors not only about attending college, but also the application process, the student aid process, really everything that comes with being a 17-year-old and the apprehension that comes with going to college."

Andrews also encouraged students to give back to their community by bringing the skills they learned back home and by getting involved in leading their communities.

"I remember being a 21-year-old running for political office uphill against many people saying, 'You're too young,'" Andrews said. "I wanted to let them know that they're not too young, and in many ways the future is now for them."

Andrews said many of the youths he interacted with Wednesday will have to step up to lead Niagara Falls and Niagara County in the years ahead, and he hoped they took something from his presentation.

"I wanted to empower them, and hopefully to encourage them to succeed," he said. "It was really important to come here today. They can make a big difference, not only in their own communities, but in the Niagara County community."