

# *Excellence in Action- Employee Recognition*

*From the Community Relations Department*



**Name:** Freddy Santiago Jr.

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**Family:** Brandy Santiago -***Mother***, Max Orosco -***Father***

**Hobbies:** I like playing strategic video games, spending time with my child and diving into new technology.

**What motivates you in life?** Creating a better life for myself and my child. My family is a big motivator as well. Continued learning and education is also important to me.

**Who do you look up to?** I look up to my mother the most. She came from Chicago to get away from difficult situations in order to create better opportunities for her children. She is why I am where I am today.

**What interested you about the world of technology upon graduating?** I was interested in information technology long before graduating high school. Growing up, I have always wanted to learn more about technology and how it worked. The fundamentals of problem solving is within technology. If you can figure the foundation of technology, you can figure out any problem that is in front of you. I have always been interested in the hardware of computers and how it communicates. It is very similar to the communication of humans in the sense that, we all have to connect and communicate in some way.

**What advice would you give to a younger you, based on what you know now?** Be patient with the things you want, because in time, they will come. Hard times come, but good times follow. A younger me would be very surprised where I am now.

**What advice would you give someone who is trying to achieve the same outcome as you?** The best advice I can give is to live day-by-day. Try not to get hung up on predicting your future. Live in the present because every day is a blessing. If you feel like the cards are against you, use the cards that you have. No one can dictate a better outcome for yourself than you.

**What is your favorite quote?**

“A dropout will beat a genius though hard work”--Rock Lee

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“We know that from time to time there arise among human beings people who seem to exude love as naturally as the sun gives out heat.”--Allan Watts