

inspired



Students and leaders of Environmental Adventures, a program of the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, Mass Audubon and Lowell Public Schools, at Rally 2014

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The Nature of Hope

A crowd of nervous students stood together at the front of the room, gathered by Gwen Kozlowski and Jane Calvin, stewardship and education manager and executive director of the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust in Massachusetts. The students participate in Environmental Adventures, created by LP&CT and Mass Audubon as part of Lowell High School's afterschool Compass program. Environmental Adventures engages students in environmental stewardship in their community while extending their science and technology and math curricula.

The young citizen scientists were there to tell their stories at the Community Conservation Reception at Rally 2014. Born in Ecuador, Edwin, a senior at

Lowell High School, approached the mic and quietly explained how the experience transformed him.

"Some people are natural born leaders. I am not one of them. When I was a freshman, I really did not like school at all. I was very closed and the best term to describe it was 'surviving.' Then I was introduced to Mrs. Newcomb and Gwen...I started working with them in the summer and throughout the year, and I started to do more sports and started to feel more in place. I learned to make decisions...I learned to become a leader...and just to try my best in order to succeed. But I never thought I would be here in front of a bunch of people who actually care about what I have to say, and with a bunch of friends who are just incredible people." 