



Client : Brown Mackie College - Tucson

Project : Speech

Objective: Inspire Graduates at Commencement

## How Close to the Edge Will You Go?

### Excerpt from the Beginning of the Speech:

...Long ago in a far away land (because that's how all these stories start) there was a king. And this king had a long-trusted chariot driver. This chariot driver was so good and so loyal that he had held this position for 60 years. In fact, the king had known him as a little boy when he was the chariot driver for his father. To the king he was the next best thing to his dad. So you can imagine when the chariot driver died how distraught the king was...

So he went to the Royal Human Resource Director and asked that a decree go out looking for a chariot driver. The position was open to anyone in the land who was legally allowed to drive a chariot.

On the day the king was to interview applicants, hundreds and hundreds of people were in line to take advantage of this momentous opportunity...Nevertheless, the king finally reduced the number of applicants to three.

The first applicant arrived on Monday morning at 8:20 a.m., although he was expected by 8:00 a.m. This wasn't the best start, but the king was still excited and hopeful for a good outcome. He, his royal chariot, and his royal horses were ready to ride. He got in the chariot and instructed the driver to take him to the top of the highest mountain in the land and pointed to it in the distance. It was so tall clouds hid the tip.

The enthusiastic driver jumped into the driver's seat, grabbed the reins and raced the horses along the road. Now the road was narrow and steep. In some places there were hairpin turns. And because concrete had not yet been invented, there were rocks, and holes and even Mesquite trees in the way. In one section the road was so narrow that if the chariot veered too far to the right, everyone would tumble down the side of the mountain. Legend had it fierce dragons lived down there and anyone who fell never came back.

In fact, it was the most dangerous road in the kingdom. But the Driver was unconcerned. As they approached the narrowest portion of the road, the king stopped the him and asked, "With the life of your king in your hands, how close to the edge of this road will you go?"

The driver boasted, "With the life of my king in my hands, I will come to within six inches of the edge of the road and still get you to the top of the mountain."

The king immediately ordered the Driver out of the chariot and made him walk home while king drove himself back to the palace. With a heavy heart the king had no choice but to wait until the next day for the next applicant to try the task...

*Note: Speech given by me as the President of the campus.*