

“Commit, Complete, Compete”
Katie Ranno, Class of 2013

President Murray, trustees, esteemed faculty, staff, friends, family, and fellow graduates, welcome to Herkimer County Community College’s commencing ceremonies of 2013.

This past school year, Herkimer took part in “Commit to Complete,” a school-wide initiative geared toward encouraging students to complete their college educations. This initiative stands on three points: Commit, Complete, and Compete, and they have inspired my points in this speech that I present to you today.

Commit- On August 23, 2011, we took our first steps in HCCC. While sitting in that first class that day, not only did we start a two year journey to today, but we also pledged to commit to our higher education. And, oh, what a journey it’s been. We’ve laughed, we’ve cried, and even pulled a few all-nighters. I can say, from my own personal experience here at Herkimer County Community College, that through it all, I’ve had some really great experiences, and have made some awesome friends.

Complete- That one word sums up what today is all about. This is the day that we officially get to complete our commitment in front of our friends, families, and fellow graduates by getting up on this stage today and having President Murray hand us our degrees. Today is a day of celebration. All of that hard work over the past two years has finally paid off and is an accomplishment we will be able to carry with us into our successful futures.

Compete- This is our challenge for tomorrow. After completing our commitment to our education and walking across this stage, with degrees in hand, we now get to go into the world and compete with others in our fields. We get to pursue those dreams that we’ve waited so long to live out and show the world what we’ve got.

Through these three initiatives over our time here spent at Herkimer, we are now able to take what we have been taught, and bring those skills into the world.

So, in conclusion, congrats to all of my fellow graduates of Herkimer County Community College’s class of 2013. Let’s go grab life while we can. For it’s today that we complete and tomorrow we compete.

Thank you.