

Good afternoon fellow graduates and your families. I would like to start off by stating what a major accomplishment achieving a college degree is. By making it this far you have taken a step towards success that less than half of Americans have decided to take. In taking this journey you have taken a major step towards improving your future. John F. Kennedy once said “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.” I think this is ever so true and important today as the rate of change increases every year. Due to this it becomes more and more important for people to have a college education and achieving this puts you significantly ahead of your peers in the job market.

Herkimer College has provided me with an enhanced outlook on life as well as many opportunities that I would have never had if I did not come here for my education. When I had first arrived to Herkimer I was positive that I was going to only to be here for a semester or a year at the most. I had planned for this to be a brief chance for me to save some money and quickly move on. However due to the many opportunities, experiences and the community that the college had to offer, I quickly fell in love and did my best to become the most involved that I was possibly able to. If at the start of my freshman year someone would have told me that I would be up here as the student body president and giving a speech at graduation I would have called that person crazy. But that is a testament to the experiences and lessons that you learn from college.

I'm sure you all have heard the saying "follow your dreams" many times. While that is a great idea, dreams change often. Grab every every opportunity and experience that you possibly can and make the most of them.

Whether this is the last stop on the road to education or is a stepping stone as you continue on, you have completed this part of your journey. With the experience and lessons that you have taken from your time here at Herkimer I am sure it will lead you all to great success.

It has been an honor being your student government president and serving on the board of trustees for the past year. I am forever thankful for the friends and opportunities that herkimer has provided me which lead to in me being here before you. We are a generation of change and not accepting the status quo, let us go out into the world and make change for the better.