

**Graduation Speech – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 10.30am**  
**Amelia Best**

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. I thank you for being here today and for allowing me to share some words on behalf of my fellow graduates.

Students - today marks the culmination of years of hard work and is a worthy way to celebrate your success. You have achieved the goal you set many years ago, what a fantastic success - well done!

I would also like to acknowledge the diverse range of people and disciplines in this room. For those who have come from across Australia and beyond, thank you making it here today.

For many, the experience of university is a transformative one. I hope that you can look back on your FedUni years with a sense of enrichment, reflecting on how you have grown personally, professionally, and academically thanks to the achievements and friendships made, challenges overcome, and opportunities FedUni has provided.

Being at a regional university like FedUni provides greater opportunities for students to participate in leadership and professional development opportunities. I know the opportunities I had at FedUni would have been incredibly competitive and hard to secure had I gone to a different university. And at the end of the day, it's access to these opportunities that gives us the chance to live, learn, and grow. For this, I am forever thankful to FedUni.

Of course in any journey through life there are those who are there for you. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to thank all of our friends, parents and families for your support. We will be forever grateful for your time and patience over the past few years in helping us to achieve this momentous goal. We love you!

Tomorrow we can look forward to the next set of changes. Life does not offer us a smooth path. Ahead will be tough times, regrets and failures as well as success, reward and happiness. Whatever your chosen path, I implore you to shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it you will land among the stars. Looking forward to your careers and life after university I truly hope you continue to reach for the moon. Make yourself proud.