

Good afternoon Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University Staff family and friends.

My name is Megan Carr and I've been invited to speak to you today as one of the Bachelor of Applied Management graduating students from GO TAFE in Shepparton. Firstly, on behalf of all the graduating students I'd like to thank the lecturers, University staff and our family and friends as without their support, completing our studies would have been more difficult.

Thank-you Federation University Staff, Partner and TAFE institutions for providing us the diversity to complete our studies in an environment that suited our locations and situations. Thank-you to all of the lecturers that supported our learning, encouraged our self-development and provided us with guidance along the way. These ceremonies across May will not only see students from around Australia graduate but students from countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Whilst for most of us our paths haven't crossed while undertaking our studies, we find ourselves here today having made the same sacrifices and commitment to receiving a higher education. Use today to reflect on the achievement that this ceremony celebrates.

Take great pride in knowing that your sacrifices and dedication were well worth it but remember, this is just a first step. Today marks an important cross road where some will enter the workforce armed with new found knowledge and eagerness, others like myself will search for ways in which we can apply what we have learnt to our current and future roles.

To my own children here today, I hope that I have inspired you. I hope that I have shown you that you can be anything that you want to be, do anything that you want to do, as long as you show resilience, determination and hard work.

To my husband, thank-you for your compassion, and understanding when I needed to put my head in the books. Thank-you for encouraging me to complete my degree and thank-you for always supporting me to reach for the stars!

The 6th U.S President, John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

I have no doubt that through your dedication and commitment to your studies, you have inspired someone in your life, challenged others to dream, do and become more. I encourage you to continue to lead, continue to strive to reach your dreams and continue to arm yourself with knowledge that will inspire those around you.

Congratulations graduating students, I wish you all the very best for your future endeavours, thank you.