

Graduate Speaker – Monday May 15th, 3pm – Jessica Kelly

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to thank you again for sharing today with us and it is indeed my privilege to speak on behalf of this remarkable class of graduates whom today are celebrating such amazing but varied personal milestones.

They say that it takes a village to raise a child and in turn I would like to suggest that it takes an entire community to create a successful graduate. We have each been honoured to be surrounded by such a diverse array of people dedicated to supporting us to reach the goals we set when we embarked on the road to today; from the many backgrounds and situations we have come, these are the people who have supported us through the tough mornings and long nights. It is in these moments, when we questioned whether we were capable and the days when we outdid our own expectations, that we shared the disappointment and joy that make up the road to today and into the unknown of tomorrow. With the support of 5-star teaching staff, award winning student support teams and committed industry partners we have found ourselves here ready for a world of work that is changing faster than it ever has before – The piece of paper in your hands represents your commitment to a life of learning and innovation that the world will truly benefit from.

I have been privileged to hold positions across this institution in which I have seen how extreme the highs and lows of each student's experience can be. Dedicating yourself to higher education is a challenge whether you're fresh from school or an experienced worker, a busy mum or experiencing your first time out of home, local or international, a full time worker or a scholarship holder, first in family or 5th through the system - each

Graduate Speaker – Monday May 15th, 3pm – Jessica Kelly

person builds themselves up to leap the hurdles standing between them and today. Your day, your moment, where everyone can see you made it to the end despite the challenges and anyone's preconceived idea of what you were capable of.

Life is a string of moments where we feel intensely the good and the bad, joy and despair, pride and disappointment, a collection of events that shape the person we are and what we can contribute to the world around us.

Today I hope you embrace the moment, and that your life continues to be very rich with moments such as these, full with pride and a sense of accomplishment of how far you have come.

Thank you.