

Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests.

On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today I would like to extend a huge thank you to all who have helped us to reach this very special day.

I feel extremely honoured to be able to speak on behalf of all graduating students that have completed their studies here or at other Federation University partners. Students who no matter what area they have specialized in are united in moving forward onto the next exciting stage of their professional journeys.

We are grateful for studying at Federation University and for all the encouragement and compassion received along the way. We most certainly couldn't have completed our degrees without the support from our Lecturers, University staff (past and present) and the most important people in our lives, our family and friends.

Personally, as a wife, mother of three children, a full-time university student, and a small business owner, with my husband, I know I would not have been able to complete my degree without the selfless support and sacrifice of my family and friends- So thank you.

Reading over past speeches, made on days such as this, it is inspiring to be able to relate and retell what our fellow students have said and echo the advice given-ensuring we, at this very moment are taking the time to allow ourselves to shine and be recognised.

It is important to celebrate our success and acknowledge the courage we have shown in challenging ourselves, for wanting more and striving to increase our skills and knowledge.

Finally, To today's graduates- The graduates of Federation University. Can you believe it??? Because I certainly can't. What a journey and what an incredible achievement-

As we walk onto this stage to collect our certificates...

As we stand up here celebrating the piece of paper we hold in our hands ...

For me, this represents our ongoing journey of commitment and perseverance....

It represents our special memories, moments of laughter and tears... friendships that we have made along the way- Personally, I know these friendships will last a lifetime.

It also represents many challenges- sleepless nights, tears, juggling relentless assignments, exams, personal lives, moving towns and the Ballarat weather

Well done on not giving up.

Many People have said "congratulations, you've finished!!!" I politely disagree and say, "it's only the beginning" Our new exciting journey has just begun.

Well done everyone...

Have an amazing afternoon... Thank you