

Tom Boundy

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today and those absent, we welcome you and thank you for your ongoing dedication and support throughout the years. I dread to think how difficult this monumental achievement would have been, if we did not have you as our supporting pillars in which to rely. I am honoured and humbled to be able to speak on behalf of the students this morning.

Whilst brainstorming this speech I was able to reminisce about my years here at Federation University. The many hours spent studying and panicking over the proper formatting of citations. Oh, the fond memories. That's when I realised, that you truly are a grad student when you find yourself citing sources mid conversation. Just joking, I haven't done that...

On several occasions, at the beginning of every semester to be precise. My partner would remind me that I turn into a different person whilst studying, and not for the better. I'm sure that more than a few here this morning can relate to this. Today is a day to celebrate, not just for us but for our guests too. We are celebrating that we were able to endure our disciplines, whilst they were able to endure us. At least they won't have to put up with us turning into crazed academic zombies anymore. Unless of course you have decided to undergo further studies, in which case, I suggest that you apologize to them after the ceremony.

On a more serious note, Federation University is a vast and diverse network that spans over many campuses and several countries. They have defined a strategic purpose. That purpose is to transform lives and enhance communities, insert ref [read citation]. I believe all the students here and now attest to that. The Universities staff and mentors have done their part and passed the baton over to us. It is now up to us to carry on and deliver our best for the community. Coretta Scott King said; "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.", insert ref [read citation]. I believe we all have shown decisive, brave and determined characteristics to make it to this point time. Take these characteristics into the future, where ever that may take you, and strive to make that community a better place.

I wish you all the best for the future to come, thank you, congratulations and enjoy the rest of the ceremony.