

CHANCELLOR RECK 2006 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
May 9, 2006

Commencement is always a very special occasion and today is no exception.

First of all, it is special for the graduates.

They have earned an Indiana University degree that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

They have sacrificed and worked hard. Today they can celebrate.

Commencement also is special for the families and friends of the graduates. They have witnessed the ups and downs of the journey a student takes to earn a degree.

They have seen the struggles and the triumphs.

Today they can celebrate.

This ceremony also is special to me, as chancellor, to President Herbert, to the trustees of Indiana University, and to the faculty and staff of IU South Bend because these graduates make us proud of our work and our institution.

And we have more to celebrate.

The class of 2006 is the largest graduating class in the history of IU South Bend.

One-thousand, two hundred and 36 students are graduating tonight.

253 are receiving graduate degrees, 772 are receiving their baccalaureate degrees, and we are conferring 211 associate degrees.

These graduates will join 27,000 alumni of IU South Bend who are located around the world.

Despite this global presence, I am always proud to point out that 70 percent of our graduates stay in the area to live, work, raise their families and contribute to the quality of life here.

Tonight's youngest graduate is 19 years old.

The oldest graduate is 58 years young.

The average grade point average for undergraduates in this class is three-point-zero-seven.

The average G-P-A for graduate students is three-point-75.

As chancellor, one of my favorite things to do is brag about the students at IU South Bend.

Tonight I want to spend a few minutes telling you about some outstanding graduates of whom we can all be proud.

Dawn Ferrara is graduating tonight with a degree in nursing.

Dawn has a 3-point-97 grade point average which not only is the highest in her class at IU South Bend... it is the highest in the School of Nursing for all of Indiana University.

Congratulations, Dawn.

Deloris Dutoi is graduating tonight.

She started her studies at IU South Bend in 1975 as a biology major with any eye on medical school.

For a variety of reasons, she had to withdraw after three semesters.

She got a job, raised a family and saw all of her children graduate from college.

In the fall of 2001 she decided to finish what she started and enrolled once again in biology.

Tonight, 30 years after she started, she has achieved her goal and is receiving a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

Congratulations, Deloris.

Susan Schricker is graduating tonight with a bachelor's degree in General Studies.

Susan is the granddaughter of former Indiana Governor Henry Schricker.

He was the first person to be elected the Governor of Indiana twice.

He served from 1941 to 1945 and again from 1949 to 1953.

Susan began her quest for a college degree 30 years ago at Northwestern University.

After leaving Northwestern after one year, she made a promise to her father that she would go back to school and earn her degree.

Tonight she has fulfilled that promise.

Congratulations Susan, I'm sure your father and your grandfather are very proud of you.

Bo Turner is graduating tonight with a Master's degree in Public Affairs.

Bo came to United States in 1985 as a political refugee from Poland.

He was active in the Solidarity movement that led to democracy in Poland.

Bo has earned both his bachelor's and master's degree at IU South Bend.

His two daughters, Sarah and Agnes, are also students here.

Congratulations, Bo.

Luis Cintron-Rolon is graduating tonight with a bachelor's degree in Management and Administration from the School of Business and Economics.

Luis is a member of the U.S. Army Reserves and was deployed to Iraq, not once, but twice, while he was studying at IU South Bend.

Luis, thank you for your service to your country and congratulations on earning your degree.

Steve Duleh is graduating tonight with a degree in biological sciences.

According to one of his professors, who has been teaching in college for more than 25 years, Steve is one of the best students she has ever seen.

He has a 3.94 grade point average overall and a 4-point in his major.

During his time at IU South Bend he has won every scholarship and award we give for science majors.

He recently was named the winner of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research grant.

Steve will be attending the University of California – Berkeley in the fall to begin work on his doctorate in molecular and cell biology.

Steve, you are a wonderful representative of IU South Bend. Congratulations.

Alisha Mack is graduating tonight with a degree in Nursing.

Since her first semester she has been a Dean's List student in the Honors Program.

In addition to her studies she is an active community volunteer.

Alisha does volunteer work at the Center for the Homeless, and the Pet Refuge Shelter.

She coordinated a community blood drive and helped develop a program at Memorial Hospital that decreased the re-admission rates of children who had tonsillectomy surgery.

And as if that isn't enough, she is married and expecting her first child later this month.

Congratulations, Alisha.

We have a mother and son who are graduating together tonight.

Kathy Diller has earned an associates degree in General Studies and her son Darin is receiving his bachelor's degree in General Studies.

She also has a daughter, Tina, who will be completing her degree at IU South Bend in December.

Kathy enrolled at IU South Bend in 1976 but stopped her education to raise her family.

She decided that if she was going to encourage her children to get a college degree, she should lead by example, so she enrolled again.

The three of them have overcome many obstacles together and are role models for us all.

Congratulations to Kathy, Darin and Tina.

Mr. President, I have presented a brief profile of our IU South Bend student body.

They are successful, hard-working and creative.

Each with a desire to make a difference in a changing and challenging world.

These graduates have met Indiana University's expectations and aspire to achieve excellence in their lives.

I present them to you with pride.

Ladies and gentlemen, graduates, families and friends, special guests, faculty and staff... it is now my pleasure to introduce Indiana University President Adam Herbert for his charge to the class of 2006.