Herbert Presidential Scholars Senior Reception

Remarks of Michael A. McRobbie
President
Indiana University
Musical Arts Center
Indiana University Bloomington
Thursday, April 29, 2010
6:00 p.m. start (Remarks at 6:30)

It is a great pleasure to be here this evening to recognize some of Indiana University's finest students as we celebrate the second graduating class of Herbert Presidential Scholars. Before I begin, let me introduce my wife, IU First Lady Laurie Burns McRobbie. I am also pleased to introduce Vice President for Diversity Equity and Multicultural Affairs Ed Marshall, and Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Roger Thompson.

As a father, I can imagine how proud your families must be as they look forward not only to seeing you graduate next weekend but to watching you continue to exceed their expectations in whatever direction your lives next take.

By now, of course, you must be getting used to high expectations. As Indiana's best and brightest students, you have been exceeding those expectations for many years now, and we are proud of all that you have accomplished during your years at IU. Such accomplishments include your outstanding academic achievements as well as your deep commitment to serving your communities. Your achievements range from receiving the Excellence in Research Award to landing international internships; from serving as an assistant middle school football coach at Tri-North to serving as head basketball official for IU Intramural Sports; from winning the Jacobs School Violin Concerto competition to helping organize IU's Dance Marathon.

With IU's top ranked programs in areas such as music, business, education, chemistry, and psychology, we can understand that level of achievement. We are among the nation's most international universities with thousands of our students studying abroad every year and an even greater number of international students studying at IU. Our great international traditions include courses in 77 different world languages, which have no doubt helped prepare our graduating Presidential Scholars for their studies in France, Spain, Austria, and Peru, among other places.

IU's academic programs and vast opportunities for engagement—with over 650 student organizations—make it the ideal environment for high achieving students like you.

And as impressive as the achievements I mentioned earlier are, they are merely a snapshot of our scholars' many and varied accomplishments over the course of the past few years. For instance, I could mention that one of you has an amazing photograph collection of the campus squirrel population: an interesting hobby for a music major. And another music major celebrated the birth of his son James just two and a half weeks ago. Peter, congratulations to you and your wife Joyce. Peter will be joining the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra this fall.

Although each of you will be travelling in different directions upon your graduation—one of you to Colorado with Teach for America, another to Chicago to a job with Deutsche Bank, and another to a doctoral program in Florida—you all will remain part of the long and rich history of Indiana University. We are proud that you will be joining our well over half a million alumni who come from around the world.

Congratulations and best wishes to each of you in the future.