

Congratulations Graduates [**applause**]!

As we celebrate your successes, I am mindful that your hard work is just the beginning. For the measure of your success will not be that you earned a diploma. **It will be what you chose to do with that diploma.**

Your diploma is not an entitlement, rather, your diploma is more of a metaphor. It is a key that unlocks opportunity, demystifies the obscure, and encourages more hard work.

So with the key we give you today, understand its power to improve your community, and your world.

As you become a little more successful, make success a little more attainable to those that follow after you. When given opportunity, make opportunity for others. Ultimately, don't allow your education to be a self-indulgent exercise that ends today. Your education is so much bigger than that.

Use your education to better your community. Use your education to inspire. Shine the light of opportunity into the darkest corners of despair. Use your education to protect the vulnerable and empower the disenfranchised. When others blindly follow the crowd, use your

education to question their direction. Discriminate. Not against people, but against prejudice, intolerance, poor reasoning and hatred.

Our faculty invested in your future and we hold high expectations. As you leave Fresno State with keys to your future, remember to make a positive difference in the global community. I wish you great happiness as you embark on the next stage of life's journey. Congratulations!