

**Connie Eaves, PhD  
Doctor of Science  
Acadia University**

- President Ricketts, faculty, graduates, and guests. First and foremost, I would really like to thank Acadia University for extending to me this amazing honour.

Graduations are very special moments, moments of reflection, where we pause to take stock of what we have achieved to date. Moments when we may pause to consider our plans of what challenges to pursue in the future.

It is a time to refuel with a new awareness of one's potential. It is also a time to be reminded of one's responsibility to try to make the world a better place

When I look back on what I am most proud of in my own academic life, it is for sure the legacy of interactions that I've had with cohorts of trainees sharing the basic principles of logic and scientific rigour, sharing the excitement of developing a method that allows new processes to be elucidated, discovering the unexpected and learning how to explain it to somebody else.

This concept of shared learning, as a lifelong continuum, is now more a part of our future than ever before. Indeed, no training is ever finished.

Fortunately, technology now makes this possible in ways that were not even conceptualised a few decades ago. How exciting. Yet the speed with which technological breakthroughs are occurring is already more than what we as individuals can get our heads around. What then will be the principles we want to hold on to or now develop to underpin the decisions we will make as individuals going forward in a global society? And how will we assist in the collective management of issues that arise?

The good news is that science has given us the intellectual tools to integrate vast amounts of information and to analyse it critically and logically. And the arts have taught us the power of creativity and the concepts of beauty and appreciation. This is the foundation that your university experience will have made to your futures. Remember it, treasure it, build on it.

We will need new methods of teaching, new norms for achieving, new goals that reward complex advances more than singular ones associated with particular people.

I hope that all of you will embrace this new situation with new ideas to bridge the huge gaps now emerging between different sectors of our organisations and our communities.

In closing, I have to say what a pleasure it would have been to actually be with you in person and have had a chance to share stories, advice, and a renewed appreciation of your beautiful campus. Perhaps another year, when hopefully, we will all be celebrating our entry into a post-COVID era. Thank you all again and bon voyage, as you go forward.