

D-Azure-Harvey-Cap&GownSpeaker-2021.mp4

Speaker 1 [00:00:00] A pleasant afternoon, faculty and staff, alumni, family and friends, other distinguished guests, and Lisa, I forget my fellow graduate graduates, it feels so surreal to even say that throughout my years at university, I must have thought about this day happening in 100 different ways, what I would wear, how I would feel, and just overall how the day would go. I must admit throughout my various scenarios, I didn't quite imagine this one. Nonetheless, it is my esteem, honor to stand here before you as your selected cap and gown speaker. Class of twenty twenty one, we did it. Well, we have accomplished a miss, a worldwide stressful time is no small feat and indeed deserves to be celebrated. I, for one, would like to thank God for providing me with the courage and strength to make it thus far after the senior year that we had to to covid protocols. I'm pretty sure that we all can adaptability to our list of skills on our resume. As we prepare to leave here, there are some of us who knows exactly what we're going to do, some of us who have an idea, but no distinct plan, and some of us who may not have a clue as to what's next. And that's OK. My message to everyone today is simple. Success lies within us all. So strive for it. Now, I'm not talking about success in terms of money or possessions, although I'm sure that will come to I'm talking about success based on happiness, selflessness and love. I believe the greatest measure of our success to come is the legacy that we leave behind, the impact that we have on the world and on others. We should all strive to look at something and be able to say to ourselves, I did that. I contributed to that. I made a difference for us in that that we can truly attain success. More specifically, I believe that this impact can be broken into two aspects tangible and intangible impact. Tangible impact is to have the physical imprint on the world. It is an impact that you can see. You do not have to be Bill Gates or Oprah or a prime minister to make a tangible impact. It is something that we all can do in many ways once we believe in whatever it is that we decide to do. Just like the Bible implores us in Colossians three versus twenty three. Whatever you do, work on it with all of your heart. Doing work that we find purposeful and with all of our heart will no doubt lead to a tangible impact and to our success. Even more important than a tangible impact is an intangible one. These are the impact that we have directly on others and how we treat them. While many things in life may fade away, we will never forget the way people made us feel, how they treated us and the impact they left on us by treating us with such compassion and care. I know I'll never forget the connections I shared with many of you and our professors. As I stand here today, I will be remiss to not acknowledge the individuals who left the single greatest intangible impact on me, my wonderful parents, to my mom, my dad, my step mom and my stepdad. Thank you for always loving me and treating me with such care. The values and traits that you have instilled in me has no doubt guided me thus far and will continue to, as I began to make my own impact on this world. My friends, the impact that we can have is immeasurable, I'm sure at some point you remember hearing the, quote, reach for the stars, shoot for the stars or some variation of that which encourages us to set high goals and to aspire to be the best? Well, from as young as I can recall, my mom always told me, don't reach for the stars. Go beyond that. I always just smiled and nodded. But now I think I understood what she was saying. Reaching for the stars, although seen as nearly impossible, places a limit on how far we should go. It gives us a constraint when really there is no limit, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. There is no limit to the impact that we can have and there is no limit to the success that we can achieve. So why stop at the stars? Let's. And beyond that. As I close, I want to leave you with a line or two from a graduation speech that I heard while watching Gray's Anatomy a few nights ago, while I have watched this particular episode a few times, it wasn't until recently that the speech really resonated with me. So I'll paraphrase it for you. Today, we become citizens of the world. Today, we become accountable to someone other than ourselves or our parents, accountable for more than just our grades or a club

that we may have been a part of. Today, we become accountable to the world, accountable to not only our future, but the future, to life and all the possibilities that it has to offer. Roughly four years ago, we walked into Acadia, bright eyed and full of hope and promise, and a few years later how we are still bright eyed and full of promise, but now equipped with the knowledge we need to be the change that we want to see inside the world. Four years or so later, we are better versions of ourselves and it is up to us to make a positive difference with that. Once again, congratulations and I wish nothing but blessings and success on all of our future endeavors. Thank you.