

Remarks for Commencement – May 2024

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**Dean of the School of
Nursing and Health Professions**

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! You have chosen a degree that has made a decided impact ... particularly on you, and your life, your family's life and other loved ones!

To the graduates in the School of Nursing and Health Professions your choice of a degree and career in Counseling, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Public Health has already made an difference in people's lives!

Each of you are sitting where you are because of your persistence, tenacity and perseverance. Many of you had to take a pause in your education, because of what was happening in your own life and the lives around you. My hope is that you pay it forward, meaning I want you share your journey with someone who may tell you that they cannot do it. You have the lived experience of letting them know that it can be done!

To all those in the audience that supported your journey, thank you! This has been an experience for you as well, and we are grateful to you as you supported your loved one! I would also like to acknowledge and thank the faculty and staff, for their hard work in keeping you on your path.

As you think back about your first semester ... I want you to focus on how much you have changed. In all the crazy and busy moments you have had while making your way through your studies here at Trinity, my wish is that you have paid attention to what matters to you. I hope that you all continue to step outside your comfort zones to explore! That can mean so many different things! I hope that whatever you do, it is done with intention and forethought. Your education here at Trinity is a baseline. The change that you all want to make in your worlds, whether that is small, medium or large, is still a change.

Charles Morgan once said: "As knowledge increases, wonder deepens"

I hope each of you continues to learn, ask questions, and develop your skills to make a difference in the world!

My congratulations to each of you on this special occasion and the very important contributions you will be making to your fellow human beings. I wish you every success as you continue your path of being a lifelong, engaged and intentional learner! Congratulations on fulfilling your dreams! Best of luck as you begin this next phase of your life!