

Remarks for Commencement 2024

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Good morning!

Many dream, some try, but only a few achieve. You have achieved! Congratulations, graduates of 2024! What a proud day! We couldn't be happier for you! A special shout-out to our Early College Academy graduates, Congratulations!

Graduation day is certainly a day of recognition, applause, and celebration -

- We recognize you for reaching this significant moment marking the completion of your years of hard work and dedicated effort.
- We applaud you on how far you've come, overcoming many challenges along the way.
- We celebrate you for the many accomplishments you've had throughout the years at Trinity.

Graduation day is also a day of reflection and gratitude –

I am sure each of you has a vivid memory of that day when you set foot on Trinity's campus, wondering what the journey would be like. Fast forward, here you are today, ready to receive your diploma, the ticket for the next train in your journey of life.

I join you in expressing my gratitude to the countless people –

- Your family and friends, who have walked this road with you, supporting you, cheering you on.
- The amazing Trinity faculty and staff, and our Coolidge teachers and staff, who have mentored you, shaped your habits of mind, armed you with specific skills and knowledge, empowered you to be successful.

Thank you to all of you!

Graduates, it's been a joy to watch you grow and achieve so much these past four years. I want you to keep on growing -

- Keep developing your talents that make you who you are.
- Keep building your strength and character for success.
- Keep showing up day in and day out for those things that are important in life.
- Keep working hard and find a niche which fits you well.
- Keep sharpening your habits of mind.
- Keep moving forward with a sense of purpose and direction.
- Keep adding to the goodness in the world.

And speaking of the world in which we find ourselves in today, I want to leave you with this Leonard Bernstein quote (How many of you have heard/seen the movie, Maestro? The movie portrays the life of Leonard Bernstein – he was an American music conductor, composer, pianist, educator, author, and a humanitarian)

While accepting the American Educator's Award in 1967, Leonard Bernstein said this, and I quote –

“The route from education to staying alive is not a very hard one to trace. We start with simple literacy. Literacy is the principal road to knowledge. Knowledge, the road to communication. Communication is the high road to understanding; understanding to international and interracial understanding; international and interracial understanding, needless to say, is the primary condition for peace.”

Congratulations! I wish you the very best. Thank you!