

Your Business Life And The Business Of Life

Commencement Address
Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College

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Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation
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Within the hour, your life will change forever - within the hour, your life will change forever.

--Good Morning President Bornstein, Dean Lancaster, Faculty, Staff, Families, Friends, and the Distinguished and early rising Graduating Class of the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College - the first graduating class of the new millennium! Congratulations!

Let me first begin by offering you sincere congratulations upon this your graduation day. This is your day! Tuition, the books, the fees, the examinations, the final examinations, and now, by dawns early light, the graduation! It is indeed an honor for me to join you on this very auspicious occasion, and I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the richness of this morning.

Today's commencement is filled with symbols, customs and traditions that are important because they connect us to a community of scholars - to all that respect and admire learning and who strive for excellence and high standards both in life and learning. As I stand before you, I am remembering the many emotions from my graduations. The same emotions that must be filling your heads and your hearts at this very moment.

The emotions of accomplishment, anxiety, exhaustion, uncertainty, and yes, optimism. You must be asking yourself whether or not you made the right decision over these past few years with your financial resources and with your time resources in pursuing your college degree. While no one can foretell the future with absolute certainty, let me predict that the future is very, very bright for the 2000 Graduating Class of the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins College.

As a college graduate you have set your self on a course of lifetime earnings to exceed \$1 to \$1.5 million dollars. As a college graduate you will be held to a higher professional and ethical standard.

You will be the future business, government, and community leaders of Florida. Today symbolizes a new beginning to your business life.

In our 1 gigahertz dot.com world, the architecture of your business life will be built upon the cornerstones of goal setting, hard work, positive attitude, ethical decision-making and the ability to adjust to change; as you look for the most profitable and satisfying business career. Set your sites high as you enter the business world, with your degree because much will be expected

from you by your business colleagues, community leaders, your college, your family and your friends.

“Getting your ticket punched”, however, takes more than just success at business. You must also concentrate on the “Business -- of -- Life.” Earn a living -- and be proud of your work; build a reputation for honesty and integrity --- meet the love of your life and support your family.

But, as a college graduate you have the responsibility to give back to your community, to your families and to your neighbors. Become involved with your community through volunteer work, contributing your wealth and wisdom to the Heart of Florida United Way, United Arts of Central Florida, the Community Foundation of Central Florida, dear old Rollins College---Alma mater.

Write letters to the editors and speak to our elected officials about the matters that concern you -- you are the future leaders of Florida. You know that our voluntary organizations provide the social goods and services that government and business either cannot or will not provide. You know that a strong civic life lowers the cost of doing business and the cost of government. Moreover, if we are to continue to prosper as a community, we cannot leave behind those who are eager to learn, willing to work hard; and not ashamed to be taught! You are a college graduate!

Like the early morning hour, today is only a beginning. For many of you this will be your first college degree, for others it will be the successful completion of a masters degree. As a college graduate you will have set the educational standard for your children and your children's children.

Because of you and your decision to pursue a Degree here at Rollins College, the oldest college in the State of Florida, you have created an educational legacy for future generations, of Florida's citizens. You will strengthen the social, political, and economic fabric of our Florida. Within the hour, your life will change forever – within the hour your life will change forever. You are a college graduate!

Let me conclude with my very heartfelt wish for your success in the business world and happiness in the Business-- Of-- Life. May you attain happiness, success, honor and acclaim from your peers. I wish you the ability to use your new degrees for your benefit and for the benefit of others; and as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, “to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded.