



Castleton University

Welcome, to Castleton University's class of 2019 commencement.

It is an honor to be up here on the behalf of my class.

Today I want to talk about something we all have a hard time facing, failure. When we fail, our natural instinct is to give up, that we weren't good enough, but that isn't the time to stop, it's the time to start. Failure is what makes us human. It makes us strong, resilient, and adaptable. It shapes us into the people we are. When we fail, we are more vulnerable than we ever thought possible, but it makes us stronger than we could ever imagine. I'm sure everyone sitting here has failed at one thing or another in their lifetime, because when you try your hardest to be the best it's not an easy shot to the top, there's ups and downs. Give yourself the freedom to fail because 99% of people are not willing to do what it takes, to make their dreams come true.

We are all here today because of a dream. And although failure was a possibility, we made that dream into a goal. That goal, broken down into steps, became a plan. And that plan, backed by action, became a reality. A reality we are living in right here, right now.

Our diplomas are very specific, remember we are all going out into the world as individuals. It's our time to start. I think that life is not about the amount of days we have on earth but it's about what you fit into those days that allows you to live a remarkable life. I want to wish you all the very best of luck. My hope for all of you today and going forward is to use all we have learned to create meaningful, purposeful, fulfilling lives and to make a difference in the lives of others. Be the change you wish to see in this world. There's no better time to start than today. Thank you. Peace!