

Presidential Remarks NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION (2021)

August 20, 2021

- On behalf of the faculty, administration, staff and board of trustees.... Welcome to Oakland University.
- I want you to take a moment to look around, and remember this moment because today, your journey begins.
- We, at Oakland University, feel so fortunate that you have chosen to be here and to join our community.
- We welcome you with open arms, open hearts, and a promise: We are here for you.
- Not just today, but tomorrow...and, every day until graduation...and beyond.
- You are such a special class.
- Not only have you committed to continuing your formal education, you have persevered a-year-and-a-half of living amid the many challenges of the pandemic.
- And you have survived.
- You've thrived.
- Believe me, your perseverance will pay off because of what lies ahead of you on your college adventure.
- Your journey at Oakland will be exciting and challenging, frustrating and, at times anxiety-filled.
- It will be rewarding, inspiring. . . and one of the most important experiences of your life.
- Reaching your potential and discovering your path isn't a journey you take alone.
 - - You'll need the support of family and friends.
 - You'll need supportive colleagues.
 - You'll need mentors.
 - You'll need challenging experiences that push you beyond where you think you can go.
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- And, you'll need time to regroup, reflect, learn and grow.
- At the end of the day, it's not necessarily the challenge that defines the person, but the character of the person that defines the challenge.
- As someone who has been in higher education for a long time, I am often asked for what is the best advice for new undergraduate students. Here's what I've come up with:
 - Believe in yourself.
 - Be a good listener, which translates into being a good friend.
 - Ask questions. Be curious.
 - Know that you are not alone.
 - Don't be afraid to try, and don't be afraid to fail.
 - Embrace change.
 - And, remember to believe in yourself.
- Your success is our success.
 - And, each of us at OU makes it our mission for you to succeed.
- Welcome to Oakland University....
- We are so proud and appreciative that you have chosen us as the place where you begin your journey.