

Commencement
May 28, 2009
President Glickman's Welcome Remarks

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff of Manchester Community College, it's my honor and pleasure to welcome you to the forty-fifth commencement ceremony for the College's 2009 Graduates! We come together in formal convocation today to recognize these students who, through determination and dedicated effort, have earned their degrees and certificates.

And it is you, the students-soon-to-be-graduates, faculty, staff and friends that make it lively. I thank you all. I'm proud to be here and to welcome everyone to one of the most important ceremonies we hold at the College.

To the MCC Graduating Class of 2009 – my most heart-felt congratulations!!! A well-deserved round of applause to you!!!!!!

While this is clearly your day, you haven't reached this point alone – Graduates, please give a round of applause to your spouses, significant others, family and friends who have supported you and are celebrating with you today!

Not only have your family and friends been there for you, but there is an entire college community who have been dedicated to your success, who have guided you, counseled you, and demanded that you give MCC all you have to give – please show these faculty and staff members your appreciation!

Graduates, this is your commencement – a word meaning a beginning or a start – and it can lead you anywhere you want to go. Learning is a journey that has the potential to fulfill your dreams – a journey that doesn't have an end.

Yet here you are, marking the end of long days and probably even longer nights of the frustration and excitement that comes with studying and learning, and for many of you, balancing many responsibilities – those of family, work and service to your communities. This commencement is an acknowledgement of where you've been – and where you are today.

Tonight is a very significant beginning. You have earned an award that signifies your educational and intellectual accomplishments. It really is up to you where this will lead – your success celebrated here today is the grounding for whatever you decide to do in the future - whether it is to spend time with your family, take on a new job, enhance your opportunities at your current job, or further your education.

Ask them to stand.

Much of this college's strength and quality is due to a group of citizens who believe in what we do. We have five trustees with us today, and I would like to ask each to stand as I mention his or her name:

- Chairperson Dr. Louise Berry of Danielson
- Trustee Timothy Ackert of Coventry
- Trustee David Blackwell of Manchester
- Trustee William McGurk of Somers
- Trustee Carolyn McKenna of West Hartford

And on behalf of Chancellor Herzog who couldn't be with us today, I'd like to recognize from the Chancellor's office: Corby Coperthwaite, Director of Planning, Research & Assessment.

Also with us today, representing the Regional Advisory Council is: Toni Dolan

I also would like to introduce the College officers who are on stage:

- Tom Bavier, Dean of Administrative Affairs
- Alfred Carter, Dean of Student Affairs
- Lillian Ortiz, Dean of Institutional Development
- Dr. Alice Savage, Dean of Academic Affairs
- Dr. Tom Danehy, Principal of Great Path Academy
- Dr. Duncan Harris, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Another group who has played a key role in these candidates' accomplishments are our truly outstanding faculty and staff, who lead the development and implementation of innovative teaching, learning and support services that provide the knowledge and skills our graduates need for their future. Will the faculty and staff members please rise to be recognized.

And, I'd like to acknowledge the many people who through their efforts and hard work have organized our commencement celebration this evening. Would all the staff and faculty who participated in making this event possible please stand to be recognized.

This group of people enable us to provide an environment that is open, responsive to change and innovation and which demands excellence. Please applaud these individuals for their dedication and service to the college.