

University of Louisville Doctoral Hooding & Graduation Ceremony May 11, 2012

DR. RAMSEY:

Good afternoon.

Commencement is a special time in the life of the academy.

And the awarding of the doctoral degree or the “hooding” ceremony is a special part of commencement.

So several years ago we decided that the awarding of doctoral degrees was of such significance that it should be a separate ceremony, thus giving us the time to recognize and commemorate you – our graduates – and your faculty mentors who have guided, shepherded you through this educational process.

And so while you will be collectively recognized tomorrow at our commencement ceremony, we have this singular event, to communicate the significance of your work, efforts, commitment, and accomplishments.

As a major research university, doctoral and graduate education is a priority of the University of Louisville. For graduate education is an important policy objective of our state.

For Kentucky to grow and prosper, increasing higher education attainment and the number of individuals with both baccalaureate and graduate degrees is vital.

The Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, mandated that UofL and UK - as the states two research institutions - address our state’s healthcare, economic, educational and social needs - with strong growing graduate education programs.

Since expanding graduate education is important to our state, it is part of UofL's strategic plan – "The 2020 Plan".

And so despite state budget cuts – 13 state budget cuts in 12 years - it is incumbent upon us - to continue and grow our graduate programs – in quantity and quality - as we achieve our place as a premier nationally recognized metropolitan research university.

To each of you, today's graduates, thank you for believing in us and for choosing the University of Louisville to continue your studies.

To each of you, congratulations. Today is a personal and professional milestone which we celebrate with you.

You have worked hard to achieve this milestone.

We recognize and appreciate your dedication, your scholarship and your commitment. We know it hasn't been easy, but it will be worth it to you and to our society.

For you will be the leaders in our community, state and beyond.

It is you who will create tomorrow's scholarly, creative and scientific breakthroughs providing for a better future for our community, state and world.

It is you who will educate the educators of tomorrow.

It is you who will set the agenda that we will follow during these changing and challenging times.

So today we simply say congratulations! Celebrate and enjoy! But we also say go forward and "make it happen!" Your leadership, service and brain power are needed more than ever.

Your families, your friends, and your faculty are proud of you.

At this time I would like you, our graduates, to stand and to thank those family members, friends, and faculty for the support they have given you.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you Executive Vice President and University Provost Dr. Shirley C. Willihnganz.

DR. RAMSEY:

Would all candidates for the degrees of Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy please stand.

(All candidates rise)

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the University of Louisville, I am pleased to grant each one of you the degree of Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Education or Doctor of Philosophy, in your respected disciplines, based on the recommendations of the faculties of the colleges and schools in the University.

Congratulations graduates!!