



UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT



**Dr. Sobh Senior Vice President for Graduate
Studies and Research
Dean, School of Engineering**

Good afternoon. My name is Tarek Sobh. I am the Senior Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research and the Dean of the School of Engineering at the University of Bridgeport. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2014 Engineering Honors Ceremony. As you can see from my very long title, I wear many hats at UB. But one of them in particular is very near and dear to my heart; which is being a professor in the School of Engineering. Yesterday, you were our students.

Today, you are our colleagues. Tomorrow, you will become the leaders of academia and industry. But you have always been and you will always be our family. A family tying its members to one another with memories shared, memories of hard work and diligence, with the classes taken, assignments written, projects completed, papers submitted, and presentations conducted....

How far you have come... You are now different than the first time you have stepped into a UB classroom, better informed, more challenged, with an understanding that good things do not come easy...

You must be proud as we are proud of you, each and every single one of you!

You are here today because of your outstanding achievements and truly exceptional performance. Because of your conference publications, faculty research day participations, scholarly submissions, academic achievements, and inductions to prestigious honor societies...

We are, as the School of Engineering faculty, charged with the responsibility of educating you, teaching you. But we have also learned a great deal from you on this journey: from your compassion, your enthusiasm, your hard work, your appreciation and dedication.

Nelson Mandela once said "A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special."

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Therefore, intelligence combined with character is the goal of our education. And that's what makes you special.

We aim at graduating professionals who will have the motto "Gladly will I learn and gladly teach". So it is our expectation from you to distribute the knowledge acquired in the School of Engineering, to teach what you have learned, to love what you teach, and to teach the love of learning.

Ultimately every goodbye is too soon, leaving us with a void which will be filled with new degree candidates. Some will be your friends, some are your family members, some you will meet in the future since, once again, we are after all, a family, who will support its members (our Alumni) in every challenge ahead, no matter how difficult to overcome it might be.

Young people who are immersed in the values and practical knowledge of the engineering disciplines are the future of the U.S. and of the world. No country, no belief denies the value of knowledge.

It is a universally accepted fact that enlightenment comes with true understanding of the world. A world left in the hands of who do not appreciate this, would not be a world worth living in. As my last words, to our female graduates, I would like to personally acknowledge your success, knowing that you are care givers, mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, and overall, caring individuals who are responsible for others.

They say "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation". That's what our goal is and we are proud to see so many of you are here today. A poet once said, "When you know better you do better". Do better. With the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Let our learning be forever.
Congratulations!

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