

PD GRADUATION 2017

GOOD MORNING,

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE 2017 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY AND ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU, THE CLASS OF 2017.

OUR BOARD CHAIR DR. BENJAMIN ROBINSON IS UNABLE TO ATTEND TODAY DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT. HOWEVER HE SENDS HIS REGARDS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL OF THE GRADUATES.

THIS HAS BEEN ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR PROVIDENCE DAY ON MANY FRONTS... ACADEMICS OF COURSE, BUT ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE ARTS, GLOBAL STUDIES, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, ATHLETICS, FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION.

YOUR BOARD REMAINS COMMITTED TO SERVING YOU AND PROVIDING A SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THIS WONDERFUL INSTITUTION, THE FACULTY, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE STUDENTS CAN EXCEL.

TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS, I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY OF SELF DISCOVERY AND SELF DEVELOPMENT. AS IS THE "PROVIDENCE DAY WAY," THERE IS NO NEED TO COMPARE YOURSELF

**TO ANYONE ELSE. FOCUS INSTEAD ON WHO YOU WERE YESTERDAY;
WHO YOU ARE TODAY; AND WHO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE.**

**THAT CONSTANT DESIRE TO LEARN, TO GROW, TO ENGAGE WITH
YOUR COMMUNITY, AND TO IMPROVE THE WORLD AROUND YOU IS
THE TRUE PATH TO SUCCESS. IT IS ALSO WHAT YOUR TIME HERE HAS
REALLY BEEN ABOUT.**

**BECAUSE PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL IS NOT MEASURED BY YOUR
COLLEGE CHOICES, HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS, EVEN THOUGH WE
RIGHTFULLY CELEBRATE THOSE THINGS TODAY.**

**INSTEAD, THE REAL MEASURE OF THIS SCHOOL IS WHAT YOU WILL DO
WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE GAINED, AS
WELL AS YOUR ACTIONS.**

**YOU ARE A REFLECTION OF ALL OF US, AND FOR MOST PEOPLE,
BEGINNING NOW, HOW THEY THINK ABOUT PROVIDENCE DAY WILL
BE BASED ON HOW YOU REPRESENT IT, YOUR CHARACTER AND YOUR
VALUES. WE KNOW YOU WILL RISE TO THE OCCASION.**

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE THIS GRADUATION IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME,
BECAUSE 35 YEARS AGO TO THIS DAY I WAS STANDING IN YOUR VERY
SHOES, AS A GRADUATE OF PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL IN 1982.**

**BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU, THAT 35 YEARS HAS GONE BY VERY
QUICKLY AS IT WILL FOR YOU. I WANT YOU TO TAKE A MOMENT TO**

LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM, THE FACES OF YOUR TEACHERS, FACULTY, PARENTS AND FELLOW CLASSMATES. SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE, NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO TO COLLEGE AND WHAT YOU DO IN LIFE THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIENDS AND A PART OF YOUR LIFE AND PROVIDENCE DAY WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR HOME.

CLASS OF 2017, WE HAVE EVERY EXPECTATION THAT YOU WILL MAKE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT AS CARING, EMPATHETIC GLOBAL CITIZENS AND WILL BE EXEMPLARY MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI BODY.

THE PERSONIFICATION OF SOMEONE WHO HAS MADE THE MOST OF HER PROVIDENCE DAY EXPERIENCE IS DR. ABIGAIL CAUDLE FROM THE CLASS OF 1992.

FOLLOWING HER UNDERGRADUATE AND DOCTORAL STUDIES AT UNC CHAPEL HILL, PLUS A MASTERS IN CLINICAL RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, DR. CAUDLE HAS BEEN A FACULTY MEMBER SINCE 2010 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS M. D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON, ONE OF THE MOST RENOWNED CANCER CENTERS IN THE WORLD. AT M. D. ANDERSON DR. CAUDLE IS A LEADER IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH AND TREATMENT. SHE HAS

**BEEN NAMED A “TOP DOCTOR” BY U. S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT;
SHE WAS AWARDED THE M.D. ANDERSON CLINICAL INNOVATOR’S
AWARD; AND HER NOVEL SURGICAL TECHNIQUES EARNED HER A
SPOT ON THE “MOST IMPORTANT PAPERS OF THE YEAR” LIST IN 2015
AND 2016 BY THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BREAST SURGEONS.**

**IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE THAT I INTRODUCE A FELLOW BOARD
MEMBER, FELLOW TAR HEEL, AND OF COURSE A FELLOW CHARGER
OUR 2017 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER MY FRIEND, DR. ABIGAIL
CAUDLE.**