

CHANCELLOR ALLISON COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
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Tonight we conclude a year-long celebration of 100 years of classes being offered by Indiana University in South Bend, 50 years of diplomas being conferred at IU South Bend, and 25 years of the founding of the School of the Arts, now known as the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts. In light of those converging anniversaries I declared 2017 a Jubilee year for IU South Bend.

Tonight is the culmination of the celebration and everyone here is a part of it. This year we are conferring 1,020 degrees consisting of 835 bachelor degrees, 172 master degrees and 13 associate degrees. The first class in 1967 had 31 graduates. We have come a long way.

We invited members of all of the past classes to join us tonight to help us celebrate our history. Many are here including representatives of the first three classes. There are similarities between the first classes and the Class of 2017. Each have worked hard to earn their degrees and will use what they learned to make the world a better place.

For example, Posi Tucker is a member of the Class of 1967 and is here tonight. Posi will you please stand.

Posi graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Teaching. After graduation she took a job in the Elkhart Community School district where she worked as a teacher, counselor, and administrator for 34 years. In that time she earned a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling and another Master's degree in School Administration from IU South Bend. She set an example for this evening's graduates, putting her degrees to good use serving her community, in her case through education. Posi also served a co-chair of the Jubilee Year Celebration Task Force. Thank you, Posi for being a wonderful representative of IU South Bend and the Class of '67.

John Voorde is a member of the Class of 1968 and is here tonight. John will you please stand.

John graduated with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. After graduation he committed himself to public service. John is a longtime member of the South Bend Common Council and is now serving for the second time as an At-Large member. He also has served as South Bend City Clerk and Portage Township Assessor. His father was a former Mayor of South Bend. John put his degree to good use helping the community, in his case through civic service, also providing a model for tonight's graduates. John served as a member of the Jubilee Year Celebration Task Force. Thank you John for being a wonderful representative of IU South Bend and the Class of '68.

Larry Lentych is a member of the Class of 1969 and is here tonight. As an IU South Bend Advisory Board member, Larry is on the platform behind me. Larry, will you please stand.

Larry graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. After graduation he got a job at First Source Bank in South Bend and worked there for nearly 39 years. He retired as Chief Financial Officer. Similar to what tonight's graduates will accomplish, Larry put his degree to good use helping the community, in his case through economic development. Larry also served as a member of the Jubilee Year Task force and is a leader with the IU and IU South Bend Alumni Associations. Thank you Larry for being a wonderful representative of IU South Bend and the Class of '69.

Will the other graduates here tonight from the first three classes at IU South Bend, 1967, 68 and 69, please rise. Let's give them a round of applause.

Will all the graduates from previous classes at IU South Bend please rise. Thank you for being part of the rich history of IU South Bend.

The Jubilee Year at IU South Bend is serving as an entree to the Indiana University Bicentennial Celebration that will run through 2020. Our connection to Indiana University over the last 100 years has made the Jubilee Year activities even better and more meaningful.

It has also given us the opportunity to reflect on our history. When you look back you are amazed at what has been accomplished here. The growth of the campus is what most people point out to me. It used to be just one building. Now it is a beautiful hub of academics, technology, research, student life, and athletics with a quad, a bridge, a library, a performance hall, and even an observatory. We are a campus right near the bend in the St. Joseph River that gives the city its name. We have housing, an art studio, and land along the banks of the river to increase our presence along Lincolnway. We also span from the Elkhart Center in downtown Elkhart to the Natatorium on the west side of South Bend. Most importantly, we have educated thousands of graduates, including those of you here tonight, who are making a difference in their lives, the lives of their families, and in the communities where they live and work.

Or look at it another way. Imagine what this region would be like without IU South Bend. The Jubilee Year has affirmed what we all knew. That IU South Bend is a special place with a special purpose; Michiana's renaissance is unimaginable without this campus. IU South Bend has done its job well. As the South Bend Tribune so graciously pointed out, IU South Bend IS fulfilling the promise of IU to students and communities throughout the broad region we serve.

Now let's talk about the Class of 2017. The youngest graduate in the class is 20 years old. The oldest graduate is 72 years young.

IU South Bend is a place of many family ties. The Class of 2017 is no exception. I have some examples. Please stand when you hear your names.

Two sisters are graduating together. Kaylee and Morgan Shepherd. Kaylee is receiving a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Morgan is getting her degree in Elementary Education. Congratulations Kaylee and Morgan.

Twin brothers are graduating together. Nicholas and James Lengerich are both receiving bachelor degrees in Business from the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics. Congratulations Nicholas and James.

A husband and wife team are graduating together. Christopher and Shelby Aemmer. Christopher is receiving a bachelor's degree in German. Shelby is getting a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Congratulations, Christopher and Shelby.

And Notre Dame has nothing on us tonight. We have two nuns from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration graduating together. Sister Lucia Richardson and Sister Mary Grace Richey are both are receiving a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Congratulations, sisters.

There are other students I would like to recognize tonight who reflect the outstanding caliber of the class of 2017. Please stand when you hear your name.

Alexandra Hockstetler graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and is a Herbert Scholar. As a teenager, she watched her father and aunt lose long battles with cancer. Witnessing the effects of chemotherapy and radiation she was inspired to dedicate her life to helping others. Next week, Alex will travel with MEDLIFE to Lima, Peru, where she will volunteer at a mobile clinic. Upon her return she will apply to medical school. Congratulations Alexandra.

Joseph Bush graduates tonight with a Master's degree in Music. He was a member of the IU South Bend Piano Studio. In December he performed the first movement of the Prokofiev Piano Concerto #3 with the South Bend Symphony becoming the first African American pianist from the Raclin School of the Arts to perform with the symphony. Congratulations, Joseph.

Alaina Myers graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. She is the first in her family to earn a college degree. While at IU South Bend she worked as tutor, teaching assistant, and research assistant in the Social Psychology of Religion Lab and the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab. She will go on to Ball State for a Master's degree in Cognitive and Social Processes. Congratulations, Alaina.

Rashida Gregory graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She served in the Navy for seven years before coming to IU South Bend. After

graduation she will work for one year to get the experience she needs to return to the Navy as a Nursing Officer. Congratulations, Rashida.

Alex LeClair graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He did undergraduate research at IU South Bend and already has a job at a medical informatics company. He has been accepted into the Computer Science and Engineering PhD program at the University of Notre Dame. Congratulations, Alex.

Patrick Finnigan graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology. After stopping out of college twice, he joined the Army and served in Afghanistan. He came to IU South Bend and excelled in his field. As part of his undergraduate research he did an archeological dig and received the Linda M. Fritschner Award for Excellence in Research. He has been accepted in the Anthropology PhD program Notre Dame. Congratulations, Patrick.

Brent Moore graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in Physics. One week after his twenty-fifth high school class reunion he enrolled at IU South Bend. Brent will go on to the Masters in Teaching program at IU South Bend with the goal of teaching math and science to junior high and high school students. Congratulations, Brent.

Katie Kabzinski graduates tonight with a bachelor's degree in History. She was in the ROTC program and a member of the Indiana Army National Guard during her time at IU South Bend. After graduation she will go on active duty in Kuwait. In the Army, she will pursue a career in military intelligence. Congratulations, Katie.

Paul Beltran graduates with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and wants to be a family doctor in the community. He organized two IU Medical School –South Bend visit days where current minority medical students shared their advice with IU South Bend students to encourage more under-represented students to apply to medical school, like he is. Congratulations, Paul.

There are many more students who deserve recognition and I'm sorry that time doesn't allow us to celebrate more of this class's outstanding accomplishments. I would like to acknowledge groups of students, though. Would all students who are first in their immediate family to graduate from college please stand and remain standing? Would all other students graduating please join them?

Each one of you who walks across the stage this evening has reached a significant goal. Each of you has achieved success and has fellow students, family, colleagues, or community members who are proud of your accomplishment. The faculty and staff of IU South Bend and the people on this platform salute your accomplishments.

President McRobbie, I have presented a brief profile of the 2017 IU South Bend graduating class. They each have a desire to make a difference in a changing and challenging world. These graduates have met Indiana University's expectations and aspire to achieve excellence in their lives. I present them to you with pride. Graduates, you may be seated.