

**INTERIM CHANCELLOR JANN JOSEPH REMARKS – NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION
Friday, August 17, 2018**

Thank you Rick. Good morning everyone. Welcome to Indiana University South Bend. This is a special day. Today you officially become students of this university and begin your college career.

Each of you has a story of how you got here. You are all in different places in your lives but are here today because you have one goal – to earn a college degree. I was like you.

As you can probably tell, I came from a long way away to get here. I was born and raised in Trinidad and Tobago. My parents had an elementary school education. Money and resources were sparse but hope was high. My parents knew that education was the way to prosperity for their children.

So I worked hard in school, excelled in the sciences, earned a college degree, and came to America for graduate school and to begin my career. I stand in front of you today as the interim chancellor at IU South Bend. I am proud to say I was like you and that like me, you can achieve your dreams.

However, to achieve your dreams you must do well in the classroom and graduate. IU South Bend has many attributes designed for your success: small classes, access to excellent faculty, tutoring, mentoring, and activities to keep you engaged.

However, I'm going to be honest with you, the coursework at IU South Bend is not easy. In the past three years nearly one in three freshmen didn't make it to the sophomore year.

Some students leave because they aren't fully prepared for university level study. IU South Bend has challenging curriculum and high standards. We know you can rise to these standards and we will provide the help you need to do it.

Some students leave because of financial issues. Make a budget and stick to it. If you start to see debt growing, please see us right away. As a student at IU South Bend you each have a financial counselor who can help you manage your situation.

I want you to be successful here. So I am going to use authority as the interim chancellor and the mother of three grown sons to give you some advice.

First, show up to class, show up on time, and show up prepared.

Talk to your professors and classmates. Ask questions. Ask for help when needed.

Read and re-read. Write and rewrite. If you regularly practice writing, you will leave here with one of the top skills you can have, even if you're in a technical field.

Study two hours for every hour you are in class. We estimate that a 15 credit hour schedule is the same as a full-time job. Approach it that way. College is your full-time job now.

Limit your work hours off campus if you can. I know many of you want to work to help pay for your college education but the best thing you can do financially is to graduate in four years and enter the workforce.

If at all possible, take 15 credit hours each semester. When it's not possible, sign up summer and stay on track for 30 units per year. That's how you finish in four years.

Get involved with campus life. Join a study group, a club, play intramural sports, write for the student newspaper, get involved in theatre, music, or dance. Research indicates that students who are involved on campus have more likelihood of success.

Commit yourself to earning your college degree. It will benefit you the rest of your life.

The people on this stage and in the audience are here to help you. You made the right decision to come to IU South Bend. We are glad you are here today.

I'll see you at lunch, I'll see you on campus throughout the year, and I'll see you at commencement four years from now. Thank you.