

Good Morning, Graduates!

Attending UMT as an army veteran was a transformative experience for me. Balancing the demands of my career, personal life, and studies as a working adult required a great deal of discipline and time management skills honed during my military service. The faculty and staff at UMT were supportive, understanding the unique challenges faced by students with professional and personal commitments. Their flexibility allowed me to stay on track while juggling multiple responsibilities. The program not only deepened my knowledge in key areas but also gave me confidence in navigating academic and professional environments post-military. It provided me with a sense of accomplishment and purpose, helping me transition into civilian life with new tools for success. This experience fundamentally shifted my perspective, showing me that growth is possible at every stage of life.

As we sit here today remember that today is a milestone, a moment you and your family will remember for the rest of your lives. It is the end of one journey and the thrilling start of another. Take a deep breath, savor this moment, and remember education can never be taken away from you. You've made it, despite the challenges, the late nights, and the times you questioned if you could do this. You're here because you pushed through, and that resilience is your greatest asset.

As you step into the next chapter, remember this: The world doesn't need you to be perfect. It needs you to be **\*\*bold\*\***. It needs you to be **\*\*fearless\*\***. You will stumble, you will face setbacks, but those moments are not failures they're lessons. Every obstacle is a chance to grow; every misstep is an opportunity to refocus.

I have a quote by American Author, **Stephen Covey**:

"If the ladder is not leaning against the right wall, every step we take just gets us to the wrong place faster."

It's easy to fall so deep into the constant grind that we call life that we forget to look up and check to see if our efforts are getting us closer to our real goals.

The path ahead won't always be clear, but trust in your journey. Trust in your ability to adapt, to learn, and to create your own definition of success. Don't be afraid to take risks, to go after what excites you, even if it seems impossible.

You've already proven you can overcome. Now, go show the world what you're capable of. Keep dreaming, keep believing, and above all, keep moving forward.

Congratulations, class of 2024 The Future is ours!

Thank you.