

OUWB Commencement – Spring 2021

President Ora Hirsch Pescovitz's Remarks

March 11, 2021

Thank you, Dr. Mezwa

Upon the nomination of the faculty of Oakland University and by the authority of the State of Michigan vested in the Board of Trustees and delegated to me, I hereby confer upon you the degree: Doctor of Medicine.

Greetings and congratulations graduates.

Take a moment to cherish this day.

Your hard work, sacrifice, and all those early morning rotations led you to this ceremony.

Throughout your medical school journey, you had some tough exams and tougher professors, made a few mistakes, maybe had your doubts, and you probably even shed some tears along the way.

But you made it.

And not only did you make it, you succeeded in navigating through a global pandemic.

Along the way, you were among those front-line workers, seeing up close the formidable bond between a physician and patient. . . and maybe witnessed the fine line between life and death.

This day symbolizes your individual achievement, but as physicians who have answered a life's calling to heal the suffering, you might have mixed emotions considering the many people who suffered and died this past year because of COVID-19.

Know this: The lessons of the past year will stay with you.

And one of the most fundamental lessons is that change in medicine and in life is constant.

Yet there is another constant that comes from deep inside of you – and that is your constant passion to serve, your compassion for others, and your dedication to the principles and practice of medicine.

Your challenge is to find the most effective approach and prescriptions that address the needs of today's patients.

And it's not just your patients who are counting on you.... We all are.

You face a profound challenge, but we know you are up to the task because you have demonstrated the strength, dedication, knowledge and resiliency that are the essential features of a physician's success.

So... go forth....

Be strong.

Confront problems as challenges and challenges as opportunities. . . .and know that in our global village, your leadership and character are needed now more than ever.

We are so proud of you.

May you remember your days here fondly, and forever carry OUWB in your hearts.

Congratulations....