

Dear Vice President Jiang, Dean Li, Dean Wu, Graduates, Family and Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Commencement! This is the moment our graduates and their families have worked toward for years!

I earned my bachelor's degree from this great university some 33 years ago. I still remember the day like it was yesterday. Graduates put down your phones and your programs and take it all in. You did it!

You are a special crop of students who are receiving a degree from Humboldt State—an American University and a degree from XISU—a Chinese university. Today I carry special greetings from President Rollin Richmond and the new president Lisa Rossbacher of Humboldt State University—congratulations!

Humboldt College is eight years old this year. If she was human, she would be a second grader. Over the last eight years untold efforts were made by personnel both from China and the United States to help this young kid grow. To all of us who have been in some portion of our life involved in Humboldt College nothing pleases us more than see you all, the product of this program and proud members of academy and proud citizens of the world reach the finishing line.

Your college experience doesn't end today. The lessons you have learned, the friends you have made, both here and across the Pacific, and challenges you have overcome will stay with you throughout your life.

Graduates from Humboldt College have an edge—you are now members of academy from two cultures, not just one, you are the embodiment of two civilizations, not just one and you carry good wills and dreams of two peoples, not just one. You are indeed citizens of the world and citizens of the future.

You did not arrive at this point by accident. Through dedication and hard work you have reached this pinnacle. But more importantly you did not complete your journey alone. Many people, professors, both Chinese and American, and loved ones, both here and across the ocean—have traveled with you and helped you along the way. Graduates, please take a moment and join me in thanking them, especially your parents and your teachers over the years.

I still remember during my student days one professor asked the class a question at the start of a class, which is “what is the difference between the darkness and dawn?” We gave him different answers some of us say the difference is at dawn you are able to see the mountains in the distance. Others go the difference is that at dawn you can see the trees from across the street. After many other similar versions our teacher finally says that he believes you know you have reached dawn when you see in the faces of complete strangers your brothers and sisters. And that dawn, dear graduates, is education. And the darkness is illiteracy! Today your diplomat certifies that you are an educated person and you have reached dawn!

Dear graduates, as you are leaving school your new life is just beginning, and that is why today's ceremony is called commencement—beginning. I want to part with you what Steve Jobs parted with Stanford graduates in 05, stay poor, stay hungry and stay foolish or use a translation by one of your peers 要安贫乐道，要吃，要二！

Best of the luck! Thank you!