

**CHANCELLOR RECK 2007 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**  
**May 8, 2007**

Commencement is always a very special occasion and today is no exception.

First of all, it is special for the graduates.

They have earned an Indiana University degree that will benefit them the rest of their lives.

They have sacrificed and worked hard.

Today they can celebrate.

Commencement also is special for the families and friends of the graduates.

They have witnessed the ups and downs of the journey a student takes to earn a degree.

They have seen the struggles and the triumphs.

Today they can celebrate.

This ceremony also is special to me, as chancellor, because it is the final time I will be sharing the platform with President Herbert.

He is retiring after a long career in higher education and four years at the helm of Indiana University.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for everything he has done for IU and IU South Bend.

Thank you, President Herbert for your leadership and support.

Let's give President Herbert a warm IU South Bend farewell.

We have a lot to celebrate at IU South Bend.

Construction will begin soon on student housing on the property just a short walk across the pedestrian bridge.

The new IU South Bend Elkhart Center will open its doors this fall in a brand new facility in downtown Elkhart.

And the Indiana General Assembly has approved funding for renovation of the Associates Building into a modern classroom facility called the Education and Arts Building.

As you can see, the campus is moving forward.

But it is also appropriate to look back tonight.

As President Herbert mentioned earlier, this commencement ceremony marks the 41st year IU South Bend has been granting degrees.

In honor of this anniversary we invited a member of that first class to be with us tonight.

The class of 1967 had 25 graduates and one of them was Posey Tucker who is in the audience.

Posey, please stand up and be recognized.

Let's applaud Posey and all of the classes who have graduated from IU South Bend.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the conductor of the Southhold wind ensemble that provides the wonderful music for commencement exercises at IU South Bend.

Jerry Lackey is conducting his final commencement for us tonight.

He has provided 32 years of service to IU South Bend as a teacher, musician and conductor.

Jerry, thank you for helping make graduation such a special event over all of these years.

Let's give Jerry and the ensemble a round of applause.

One-thousand and 46 students are graduating tonight.

252 are receiving graduate degrees, 613 are receiving their baccalaureate degrees, and we are conferring 179 associate degrees.

These graduates will join 27,000 alumni of IU South Bend who are located around the world.

Despite this global presence, I am always proud to point out that 70 percent of our graduates stay in the area to live, work, raise their families and contribute to the quality of life here.

The youngest graduate in the class of 2007 is 21 years old.

The oldest graduate is 68 years young.

I am also happy to point out some family connections in this class.

Idris Dobbs is graduating with a degree in liberal arts while his wife Elizabeth receives her degree in public affairs.

Kathy Diller receives her bachelor's degree in General Studies bachelor's degree while her daughter Tina graduates with a liberal arts degree.

Sisters Alice and Ann Andere both will cross the stage tonight.

They are from Kenya.

Alice has earned a degree in nursing.

Anne is graduating with a degree in biology and intends to continue her studies in medical school.

Jessica Wool-wind graduates tonight with a degree in dental hygiene.

She has inspired her mother to return to school and enter the dental hygiene program.

Her mother will graduate next spring.

We also wish to remember two students with posthumous (PAUST-HU-MUS) degrees.

Stephan Bolinger of Elkhart was pursuing a degree in General Studies.

He returned to school to inspire his children keep learning.

And Earl Hoff, also of Elkhart, was a CPA who returned to school to earn his MBA.

His goal was to eventually teach in college.

President Herbert and I had the privilege of presenting their families with their diplomas earlier this evening.

They are in our thoughts tonight.

There are other outstanding graduates I want to brag about tonight.

Aryn Schounce is graduating with a double major in women's studies and political science.

She spent the fall studying in Toulon, France.

She spent the spring semester at the Indiana Statehouse working with the House Democratic caucus.

She now plans on going to law school.

Valerie Berezner earned her degree in political science.

She spent last semester in Uganda, Africa, working for a conflict resolution organization.

Next fall, she will be attending law school overseas.

One day she hopes to work for the United Nations.

Jennifer Scott completed her bachelor's degree in nursing in December with the highest GPA statewide in the IU School of Nursing.

Another nursing graduate Angela Hedman will be off to Johns Hopkins University in a few weeks to begin a post-baccalaureate fellowship for one year.

After that her goal is to attend medical school.

Another nursing graduate Eric Mellinger will enter the U.S. Navy Nurses Corps later this month.

He says he is proud to serve his country in the field of nursing.

Erin Ward has earned her degree in psychology.

She will enter into the doctoral program in clinical psychology at the University of Washington.

She will be doing research on personality disorders.

Tonight we also celebrate students who have weathered many storms to be here.

Ada Sanders started her career in school in 1972 but was not successful.

She returned in 2002 with a spirit to succeed.

Tonight she graduates with distinction in sociology with a 3.85 GPA.

Annette Deguch graduates with a master's in social work.

She first attended classes in 1988.

Then she got married and started a family with husband Paul.

In 1997, Officer Deguch of the South Bend Police was killed in the line of duty.

She returned to IU South Bend and received her bachelor's degree in 2004 and now has a master's degree to go with it.

We join her family in celebrating her accomplishments tonight.

And Victorio Reyes receives his master's degree in social work tonight.

In 1980, he was seriously injured in a car accident.

After months of rehabilitation, and still learning the English language, he decided to dedicate himself to helping others.

He received his undergraduate at IU South Bend in 2004 and tonight will cross the stage to receive his masters' degree.

Mr. President, I have presented a brief profile of our IU South Bend student body.

They are successful, hard-working and creative.

Each with 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.

Ladies and gentlemen, graduates, families and friends, special guests, faculty and staff... it is now my pleasure to introduce Indiana University President Adam Herbert for his charge to the class of 2007.