

“Sharing Your Joy”

October 23, 2005 - DeVry Commencement Address - David J. Lanners

It's a **humbling privilege** to be invited to share a few minutes with you on this special day – a day dedicated to recognizing those whose names are being added to the roster of DeVry graduates. Your **accomplishment deserves our respect**.

There likely have been **at least a few** frightening or possibly painful experiences associated with your DeVry coursework. And for dealing with those experiences, I offer a simple and **very effective technique** – build a bridge, and **get over it!**

With your course assignments and classroom quizzes quickly becoming a distant memory, **you may be tempted** to conclude that there's not much left to learn about yourself as you prepare for the routine tasks you expect to face tomorrow.

Think about the **joy-filled moments** you experienced at DeVry, and **dedicate yourself** to developing or finding ways to **help others benefit** from your education and training. You'll experience a special kind of joy as you're helping others.

Those among you who **excelled in Math courses** can look forward to the joy of applying the quadratic formula. The good news is that it will be just as you learned it – “*minus B plus or minus the square root of B squared minus 4AC all over 2A.*”

Similarly, those among you who excelled in English courses or technical writing can look forward to helping executives prepare policy statements that are not only grammatically correct but also avoid **sesquipedalian** words. You've learned that the meaning of some words might change, and long words can bother us – **Right?**

You may have come to DeVry to **build a better future** for yourself – to **make a better living** to support yourself or maybe your family. Whatever the reason, you can be sure that **you are now better prepared** to deal with your career challenges.

Life after education is **richer in many ways** than is life before education, and we can leverage our education more effectively if we **keep our hearts engaged** while using our heads. **In a moment** you will have an opportunity to test this principle.

I would like to ask each of you to place your left hand on your own chest firmly enough to **feel your chest vibrate when you speak**. When I say “*ok*,” turn to the persons next to **you** (and while shaking their hand) say “**Thanks for being here today!**” And, when **you** are thanked, respond with “**You are very welcome!**”

Then let them thank **you**, and tell them **they too are very welcome**. Are you ready for a heartfelt exchange of appreciation with the persons next to you? *Ok, let your fellow student’s know you appreciate their being here for you.* (pause)

I hope you felt the vibration around your heart as you spoke **and** as you listened to your classmates. Heart-to-heart connections make life special. Your words are very powerful, and **there is great value** in heart-to-heart, **honest** dialogue.

When I was very young, I thought life was all about **justice** and **fairness**. I have come to believe that **meaningful life is about goodness**. Life is about goodness in **ALL** its forms, and you just experienced one example of goodness at work.

Did you notice a **little change in your mood**? When we are connected to those around us and appreciate them for being a part of our life, we get a taste of the joy that can re-energize us when things get difficult – and **they WILL** get difficult for each of us from time to time. When life’s challenges come, **I encourage you to remember this day** and how you felt as you connected with your classmates.

When you give or receive money, invest **one second** to think about the motto on the U.S. currency that reminds us where our country’s Founding Fathers looked for strength. If that makes you feel uneasy, then substitute “*In GOOD We Trust!*”

On behalf of the millions of people who will benefit from your contributions to future generations, I say “**Thank you! Thank you all.**” My hope for each of you is that you will apply your DeVry education wisely and that you’ll stay connected **heart-to-heart** with everyone you deal with **every day for the rest of your life**.

May you all be **blessed** as you pursue the American dream!