

Graduation Speech – 12th May 2016 – 10:30am – Cam Butcher

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of the graduates receiving their awards today, I would like to begin by saying: thankyou. Everyone sitting here today has gained something invaluable by studying at FedUni – an education with inspirational and experienced lecturers and tutors; connections and friendships that will last far into the future; opportunities and experiences that may not have been available anywhere else; and we have you to thank for it. It is with the support of all the staff, our families and of course each other that we have made it this far and can call ourselves alumni.

We who are graduating here today are from many different backgrounds. Not only are we from multiple programs, but there are graduates among us who have studied not only in Ballarat, but in other states, and even some who might have studied abroad, including in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. The reach of Federation University is large, and as alumni we will make the reach even larger when we go on to work, research or further study.

Like many of us here today, I began my studies unsure of what path I would follow as I studied and when I finished my degree. I had many flaws in my study habits; some of which are still works in progress. But it is because of my time here that I have chosen the career path I am now on; and my time here is the only reason I have the courage to stand up in front of you today to deliver a speech on behalf of all of us. We all would have undergone personal growth during our time here, whether it's completely obvious to us or not. I had a blast studying and working here, I met so many people passionate about education and the future of students. The only downside to me about the experience at all is the \$25000 debt to the government looming over my head – but that's future Cam's problem.

To everyone who helped us along the way: thankyou for your commitment and enthusiasm. To my fellow graduates: We GRADUATED. Let that sink in. No more late nights finding that last reference, or computer crashes as you finish that 1500 word essay [happened more than once]. From here we go on to many different things, some of us with the same degree but with completely different talents, each to do good somewhere in the world. Relish in your time here and know that whatever you do, you are prepared for what the future holds.

Thankyou.