

PHI BETA KAPPA INDUCTION CEREMONY REMARKS

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Congratulations on your induction into Phi Beta Kappa. It is an honor that is recognizable in the world of academia and beyond. It is an accomplishment you should be proud of. It represents exceptional attainment.

When Pastor Tune asked me to speak with you this evening, he suggested I talk about why I think a liberal arts and sciences education is valuable, and the difference it made in your own education and life.

Let me s

than yours might if you are business major at Wittenberg.
My experience was a lot different.

With the benefit of hindsight and life experience, I have a better sense of what I missed than I did in the early 80s.

education, or whatever else we decide to call it, valuable and essential.

First – COGITATE. We ask you to think deeply about things and cultivate your ability to do that within and across disciplines.

Next – COLLABORATE. We create opportunities for you to collaborate with each other, with faculty and staff on campus, and in the local and global communities to learn from each other and to make a difference together.

Last – COMMUNICATE. As our mission states, a Wittenberg education “develops the individual’s capacity to ... communicate with precision.”

I think the power of what we do is that no matter what you have studied, you will leave here with the ability, developed through practice, to cogitate, collaborate, and communicate. All of that will have happened in a fourth C, community. Those things are everlasting and evergreen.

My life has taken many twists and turns since I graduated from Penn State. I think I’ve managed them well, not always, but mostly. I might have managed them better with the benefit of a Wittenberg education. By the time you are my age, your life will have taken more twists and turns than mine has. Take comfort in the fact that you are well prepared to face those challenges and seize those

opportunities. Though some today question the value of higher education, I do not and you should not, especially because you have the best form of all.

Thank you.