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## Congratulations Graduates!

We are all delighted to be here today to celebrate your accomplishments.

We are also excited to be here to give you some final advice before you walk away from the University of Akron.

Here are 10 pieces of advice I want to leave you with this morning:

1. Always respect people who own house cats. These people have the confidence and courage to live with a savage, barely domesticated predator who has no interest in them whatsoever.
2. If you want to persuade someone of something, the first thing you have to do is listen to them very carefully. Understanding another person's perspective - even if you disagree with that perspective - is the only way to get that person to understand what you think.
3. Despite what you may have heard, there is truth. As an educated person it is your obligation to seek it. As an educated person it is your obligation to speak it.
4. Most of the Earth is water. Learn to swim!
5. Civilized societies embrace a common good. This good comes from mutual respect, from taking care of one another and from lending a

hand to those in need. Nurture this precious commonwealth through a life of service.

6. If you must gamble, gamble on yourself. You will have a much better chance of winning.
7. Here is some advice from General George Patton: "When in doubt, observe and ask questions. When certain, observe at length and ask many more questions."
8. What makes people unique are their stories. You can find these stories in their art, music and literature. Spend time with the arts. You will come to understand.