## Convocation 2016: Provost & Vice-President Academic Welcome - Trent University Durham

5 minutes 07 seconds in length

Trent University Durham logo]

>> JACKIE MULDOON: Good morning. I'm Dr. Jackie Muldoon and as Provost and Vice President Academic of Trent University, it's my honour and pleasure to welcome you here today to convocation 2016. Welcome to our graduates, parents and families, spouses, partners, and friends. We are thrilled to be hosting convocation for the first time here in the Durham region. I hope you will enjoy the deep sense of community that is so much part of who we are here at Trent Durham. A warm welcome also to our special guests and in particular His Worship John Henry, Mayor of the city of Oshawa, Dr. Deb Saucier-- [applause] Dr. Deb Saucier, Provost and Vice President Academic at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, [applause] and it's my particular pleasure to recognize the President of-- Trent's founding President, Professor Tom Symons here to recognize this first for Trent University Durham.

[Applause]

On behalf of the entire university I would like to thank you for joining us for this very special occasion. I'd also like to welcome to recognize our Deans, department heads, professors, and members of the Board of Governors whose presence here today is a sign of the exceptional support our students receive while at Trent and at our Durham campus. Convocation is our largest and most important event at the university; a time when we profoundly feel our interconnectedness and we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates, the contributions and support of their family and friends, and the pivotal role played by our faculty and staff in guiding them to this moment. Celebrating the individual accomplishments and successes of all our students graduating today is a fitting end to another exciting year for Trent University Durham and what a year it's been.

In 2015 Trent University Durham celebrated its 40th anniversary giving, Trent the distinction of being the longest operating post-secondary institution in this region. Our anniversary year also provided all of us, alumni, community supporters, students, faculty, and staff with an exciting opportunity to celebrate our collective accomplishments and build a foundation for the next 40 years of success. As in Peterborough, where we celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2014, this milestone anniversary served as a great launching pad for the future and in Durham exciting plans are underway for building Trent's reputation for excellence in the region. Here at Trent Durham we pride ourselves on our teaching focused learning environment and the close-knit campus community that leads to a transformative educational experience, as our graduates well know.

We are all so proud of our growing roster of dynamic academic programs. In the last few years alone we have added several new innovative degrees and programs, including Communications and Critical Thinking and Child and Youth Service Studies, both which are offered exclusively on our Durham campus. We've offered Social Work and Media Studies, as well as postgraduate certificates in Human Resource Management, and new for 2016, Marketing and Entrepreneurship. Each of these new programs has a keen focus on experiential learning. Our focus on internships, placements, and community-based research and experiential learning opportunities equips our students for success in the competitive workforce and beyond. And on the heels of the announcement this spring that Oshawa was recently ranked first for employment in Canada by the BMO Regional Labour Market Report Card, Trent term students are indubitably prepared and poised to launch exceptional careers in the region. Interwoven with the many great academic offerings here at Trent is a dynamic teaching that the university as well known for. You will hear an example of this later when Trent Durham's own doctor Joel Bates is honoured for receiving both the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching by Trent University and the 2016 Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

[Applause]

It's definitely exciting time for Trent Durham and our future is bright. Looking ahead we will build on our long-standing reputation as the top university in our category in Ontario, we will celebrate and honour our strengths and traditional and interdisciplinary arts and science programs, and continue to grow our reputation for excellence through our expanding professional programs as well as new course offerings.

Now I'd like to address the graduates. I'd like to say that today is your day it's a celebration and also a culmination of your Trent experience and rest assured you are in great company, as you will join an alumni family of more than 44,000 strong. As you strike out on the next chapter of your life I encourage you to keep in touch Your Trent connection is something that will last a lifetime. We are proud to call you our own. Congratulations graduates.

[Applause]

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