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President, KSC Parents Association
Commencement 2013

Dr. Kahn, honored guests, members of the platform party, faculty, staff, family members, friends, and most importantly today, members of the Class of 2013, it is my distinct honor to stand before you and to represent the Keene State College Parents Association.

The work we do in the Parents Association is on behalf of your families and for your benefit. We work within the Keene State community and reach out beyond it to help enrich your educational experiences, and we do so because we believe in your talents and abilities and in your passion and potential.

And because we believe in all this, we simply believe in you. And you haven't disappointed us, your families and guardians and parents. In fact, you've amazed us with your diligence and persistence, with your commitment and concern, with everything you have and everything you gave and everything it took to get you into these seats today.

To get here, you learned. You learned while also participating in intercollegiate, club, or intramural sports. While painting, singing, acting, sculpting, composing, dancing, or writing. While volunteering: with the old, the young, the intellectually or physically challenged, the struggling, the gifted. And while working: in food service, retail, IT, manufacturing, corporate, on campus and community offices. And in civic engagement: you asked questions, you demanded answers, you spoke up, you spoke out. You studied through illness, injury, and loss. You worked despite limitations, despite what others told you you couldn't do, despite the days when you just didn't want to get out of bed or the nights when you didn't get there until the next morning. And, of course, you played: up and over summits, down slopes, across sidewalks, on consoles and screens, at parties and celebrations. You embraced opportunities and even made some for yourselves. Most importantly, you continued to evolve, and we parents and families have watched you with so much pride.

Today we will watch you one more time in this place. As we celebrate your accomplishments today, know that we honor the time you have spent here and the people you are. We wish for you many things, but most importantly, we wish for you, our children, just this: that you be good and be well, that you do good and do well, that you live every moment, love deeply, and cherish each other always.

Congratulations!