

Good Morning Board of Directors, PTA members, faculty, parents and families, distinguished guests and above all, you, the graduating class of 2012. I am honored to be part of this significant occasion and to share with you in this celebration of your graduation. To the class of 2012 we are all very proud of you!

Certainly the class of 2012 will be greatly missed and most of us here this morning can testify to their incredible academic achievements, passionate performances in the arts and memorable competitions in athletics.

One of your many accomplishments this year was getting accepted to universities in Venezuela and abroad. You will agree with me that this was no easy task. I am pleased to announce that the following students were accepted to foreign universities.

- 1- Pierfrancesco Barrinci: Babson College
- 2- Laura Drew-Bear: Georgia Tech, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship, Drexel University Scholarship,
- 3- Reinaldo Moleiro: University of Tampa, University of Colorado at Boulder, Stetson University
- 4- Valeria Viera: Barry University Scholarship, Florida International University, University of Miami, American University, Northeastern University,
- 5- Carlos Alberto Fidalgo: University of Tampa Scholarship, Ranscelear Polytechnic Institute, Northeastern University, Shanghai International Studies University
- 6- Emiliano Guerrero: Bentley University, Florida Institute of Technology Scholarship, Hofstra University, University of Miami
- 7- Antonio Cincotti: University of Tampa, Michigan State University, Florida Institute of Technology

- 8- Ana Carolina Martinez: University of Tampa Scholarship, University of Texas at Tyler, Barry University
- 9- Miguel Gerov: University of Colorado at Boulder, Drexel University Scholarship, Penn State
- 10- Roberto Amiratta: University of Colorado at Boulder, Northeastern University, University of California Santa Barbara, University of Maryland
- 11- Ximena Lagoa: University of Tampa Scholarship, Northeastern University, University of Miami
- 12- Eduardo Cannizzo: University of Tampa Scholarship, Florida Institute of Technology with scholarship, Northeastern University, Bryant University
- 13- Carla Prato; University of Tampa Scholarship , Savannah School of Arts and Design with scholarship, Emerson College, Northeastern University, University of South Florida
- 14- Isabel Quintero. Bentley University, Penn State, University of Miami
- 15- Valentina Spielberg: University of Tampa Scholarship, Barry University Scholarship
- 16- Federico Kurten: Stetson University Scholarship, Florida Institute of Technology Scholarship, Northeastern University
- 17- Isabela Aneas: Penn State University
- 18- James Alcock: Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship, University of Illinois, Georgia Institute of Technology, Bentley University Scholarship, Emory University, George Washington University Scholarship, Northeastern University Scholarship,
- 19- Andrea Espinoza: Savannah School of Arts and Design with Scholarship
- 20- Fernando Colella: Penn State University, St. John's University Scholarship, Drexel University, University of South Florida Scholarship, Northeastern University
- 21- Pedro Penzini: University of Tampa, University of Colorado at Boulder, Bryant University
- 22- Patricia Perales: University of Colorado at Boulder, Syracuse University

- 23- Gabriela Palacio: Georgia Tech, University of Michigan, University of San Diego Scholarship, University of Miami Scholarship, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship,
- 24- Ibrahim Gordils: Georgia Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship, Florida Institute of Technology Scholarship, University of Minnesota Twin Cities Scholarship, Northeastern Univ. Scholarship, Univ. Of Miami Scholarship, Jacobs University scholarship
- 25- Jose Antonio Diaz: University of Miami, George Washington University, Fordham University Scholarship , Penn State University, Bentley Univ. Scholarship, American Univ scholarship, Emory University.
- 26- Peter Alcock: Georgia Institute of Technology, Worcester Polytechnic Institute Scholarship, Carnegie Mellon University, Emory University, Northeastern University Scholarship, University of Toronto
- 27- Marco Martinez: University of California Sta. Barbara, Northeastern University,
- 28- Karim Mattar: University of South Florida, University of Miami, FIU, Bentley University, Northeastern University, Penn State University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- 29- Clara Legorburu: Fashion Institute of Technology New York
- 30- Maria Alejandra Chang: Universidad de Navarra
- 31- Gustavo Grau: Bentley University Scholarship, Oxford Advanced Studies Program, Shanghai International Studies University.
- 32- Jose Manuel Egui: Boston University, George Washington University Scholarship, American University Scholarship, Fordham University Scholarship.
- 33- Fernando Arriaga: University of California Santa Barbara
- 34- Marta Damiani: Babson College, Northeastern University
- 35- Leonardo Palacios: University of Ontario, Polytechnic Institute of New York, Worcester Institute of Technology, Shanghai International Studies University

Congratulations and well done!

As I began writing this speech a whirlwind of thoughts came to my mind, the hard part was putting all of those thoughts together in order to make some sort of sense and not bore you in the process. You are probably thinking, well now she knows how we felt when she asked us to write essays. Yes, you are so right, I do, however, I do not excuse myself, I was only trying to make better writers out of you, and once in college you will thank me.

Today as each one of you stands on the threshold of a new beginning you must reflect on the journey that brought you here. I ask that you think of those who were significant and played an important role in this, your parents, family, friends and teachers. This we can call team work, each of these people were by your side helping make this day a reality. And what better way of acknowledging them than to stand , to look out at the audience gathered here, look for that person or individuals and say thank you. This understanding and knowing when to say thank you will be invaluable lessons you take forward.

This morning, you will have heard in speeches the term future. So where is the hope for a better future? I am looking at it. It is you the graduates of this class.

Graduates, there are many challenges that still lie ahead, challenges that you may not even anticipate. But it is our hope that each of you will take what you have learned and face those challenges head on. Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something. Thomas Edison tried two thousand different materials in search of a filament for the light bulb. When none worked to his satisfaction, his assistant complained, "All our work is in vain. We have learned nothing." Edison replied with great confidence, "Oh, you are wrong. We have come a long way and we have

learned a lot. We now know that there are two thousand elements which we cannot use to make a good light bulb."

Remember, failure is not always bad. Failure can teach you things about yourself that cannot be learned any other way. Like Thomas Edison, you can emerge from failure wiser, stronger, and more disciplined than ever before.

I wish you health, happiness, and much success. I wish you a life that is productive and rewarding. But before you walk across this stage and are no longer a student at Colegio Jefferson, I want to leave you with one last thought,

You need to dare to dream to be all that you can be tomorrow.

Dale Carnegie said, "**The person who goes furthest is generally the one who is willing to DO and DARE!**" This is the challenge that lies before you this morning. Dare to be all that you can be.

Dare to chase your chosen career -

Dare to excel -

Dare to go the extra mile -

Dare to show compassion -

Dare to make your mark in the world -

Dare to have empathy -

Dare to be the best you can be... and then DO it!

Class of 2012, the world awaits you! May God bless you one and all!

