

Angela Trusty
Master's in Learning and Organizational Change
2024 SESP Convocation Remarks

Trusty, who grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, credits most of what she knows about learning and conflict management to her birth order -- the middle child in a family with six girls and one boy. (She is confident all other middle children can relate.) She learned the rest while attending Northwestern's Master's of Science in Learning and Organizational Change program.

Before attending Northwestern, Angela earned her bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College, studying Middle Eastern history and American government, served an 18-month mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and worked in Learning and Development for a variety of fortune 500 companies during her professional career.

She completed her master's degree while living and working in the DC-metro area and now runs the leadership learning and coaching programs for a Toronto-based company. When not working, you can find her traveling with her family, enjoying Washington, D.C. theater, and keeping in touch with her SESP classmates.

Dear fellow graduates, esteemed faculty, proud families, and distinguished guests,

It is with excitement that I stand before you today as we celebrate the culmination of a part of our journey at Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy. What we lovingly call SESP. Thank you for being here.

Graduation day is a momentous occasion. It is a time to reflect on our accomplishments, express gratitude for the support we've received, and look ahead to the impact that we will make in our organizations, schools, communities, families, and beyond.

You'll notice that I referred to this moment as the culmination of just a part of our journey with Northwestern. In the coming years, we may come to realize that this experience marks merely the beginning of a much larger adventure.

I officially completed my graduate program back in December. As such, I had the opportunity to attend my first alumni event in Washington, D.C. just a few weeks ago. I knew I wouldn't know anyone there and I admit, I was nervous to attend. Within five minutes of walking in the door, I had a Wildcat pin on my shirt, a bumper sticker in my hand, and two new friends from the class of '76.

And by the way, they are very proud of their son who just moved to LA – he is Class of 2015.

That evening, I met other attendees who expressed that this alumni group had helped them navigate post school challenges like making friends in a new city, finding jobs in diverse industries, and helping them stay connected to the school that they loved...all this while of course providing something amazing to eat.

For me, I was looking for connection, continued learning and friendship...and true to SESP form, I found it there. I am excited for what the future holds.

Still, as we gather here today, it's impossible not to feel a sense of pride, completion, and accomplishment. Each of us has worked tirelessly to reach this moment and so many of you have helped us find success on this journey.

Overcoming challenges, juggling conflicting priorities, pushing boundaries, and embracing growth along the way. We have become both skilled thinkers and doers and we leave this institution with the ability and responsibility to make a difference. The world needs us.

Our time at Northwestern has been transformative, both academically, professionally, and personally. We've been inspired by each other, engaged in thought-provoking discussions, and challenged to think critically and creatively about the complex issues facing learning and systems today.

But perhaps most importantly, we've formed deep connections and lifelong friendships that have enriched our lives in ways we never could have imagined. I know I have.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, let us carry forward the lessons we've learned here at SESP.

Let us remember the importance of empathy and compassion in our interactions with students, colleagues, and communities. Let us embrace

humanity as a core principle that shapes our work and educational practices and policies.

And let us never lose sight of the power of learning to transform lives and empower individuals to reach their full potential – even if that transformation is our own. Let us keep in our minds and memories – the best that Northwestern has given us.

Still as we celebrate our achievements today, let us also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Our fields are constantly evolving, presenting new obstacles and opportunities that will require our collective effort and innovation to address. The work ahead of us is both daunting and vital.

Yet, I am confident that each one of us is prepared to rise to the occasion—to confront these challenges with courage, determination, and a relentless commitment to excellence. Together, we can and will make a difference in the lives of people around the world, ensuring that education remains a powerful force for positive change.

As we leave this campus today, let us do so with a sense of gratitude for the experiences we've shared, the lessons we've learned, and the bonds we've formed. And let us look to the future with optimism and excitement, knowing that the best is yet to come.

A very special thank you to my family, classmates and MSLOC faculty and administrators – I could not have done this without you and a big

congratulations to the class of 2024. May our paths be filled with success, fulfillment, and endless opportunities to make a difference.

Thank you.