

IVY TECH SOUTHERN INDIANA

2009 COMMENCEMENT SCRIPT

5-14-09

Prelude

(Formal music begins. Stage guests, faculty and graduates begin the processional. After everyone is in place on stage, Chancellor Shourds steps to podium.)

Chancellor Shourds

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the 2009 Commencement of Ivy Tech Community College Southern Indiana. I am Dr. Rita Hudson Shourds, Chancellor of the Southern Indiana campus and it is my honor and privilege to welcome you to our 38th commencement ceremony on the 41st anniversary of our campus. Please remain standing for the invocation.

Invocation by Rita Shourds

Dear Creator, We thank you that we are able to gather here tonight for this ceremony. It marks an important milestone in the lives of this college and those gathered here today. We thank you for the wisdom of the faculty who guided them, the dedication of the staff who shepherded them through, but most of all, for the determination the students showed in

pursuing their degrees. May you bless the future efforts of all of those gathered here tonight. Amen.

(Chancellor Shourds gives invocation.)

(After invocation Rita stays standing at podium.)

Chancellor Shourds

Please be seated.

(Pause)

Tonight we gather to celebrate the graduating Class of 2009, to share in their happiness and to witness their confirmation as college graduates.

Many of our distinguished guests will be introduced during the course of the evening. However, at this time I would like to recognize our trustees to whom we extend our appreciation for their support and commitment to Ivy Tech Community College.

First, please welcome State Board Trustee **(insert names)**

Ned Pfau

I would also like to introduce the Regional Board Trustees with us tonight: **(insert names)**

William Taylor

Michael Dalby

State Senator Connie Sipes

Paul Perkins

We are also pleased to welcome the President of Ivy Tech, Thomas Snyder, and his wife, Bobbette Snyder. They are honored guests, and always welcome. Also joining us this evening is Ivy Tech Provost Don Doucette, who also traveled from Indianapolis to be with us this evening. Finally, we have with us the former president of Ivy Tech Community College, Gerald Lamkin. It is a pleasure to have him with us this evening. We're honored that you all could join us. Thank you for coming.

Finally, we are honored to have Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson with us this evening. The mayor knows well the importance of regionalism, as we do here at Ivy Tech. Having him here tonight is another step towards linking Southern Indiana and Louisville. We are very pleased that the mayor has agreed to offer the commencement address later in our program.

At this time, we want to welcome President Snyder to the podium. It is always a delight to have him with us on such an important occasion, and he would like to greet you and give some words of welcome.

(Rita leads applause and welcomes Snyder to podium. She exchanges hand shake with him and he proceeds to

podium. Rita sits down.)

President Snyder

Thank you all so much for such a warm welcome.

Since I joined Ivy Tech two years ago, one of my greatest joys has been to visit campuses when they are in the midst of the graduation season. There is much hope, anticipation and courage housed in this room tonight. For just a few minutes tonight, I want to visit with you about Ivy Tech and what we have accomplished as a college system. Today, as you sit ready to graduate from this college, you are linking arms with eight thousand fellow graduates at fourteen ceremonies across the state.

To Ivy Tech, that's eight thousand, five hundred success stories. That's eight thousand, five hundred workers trained and ready for work. That's eight thousand, five hundred people who know more than they did two years ago.

Even in these challenging economic times, I still very much believe in hope for each one of you. We see growth, still, in many of the fields that you are receiving degrees in tonight. At Ivy Tech, it is part of our legacy to adapt and respond, even in difficult times. And that will be your challenge going

forward – to adapt and respond to the environment around you.

In the coming years, you will see the campus of your alma matter transform. You will see a new building, Ivy Hall, rise from ground and the current campus building receive an extreme makeover. The campus will have much more of a park-like, campus-style feeling. We hope that it will enhance the educational experience of our students. And one day, we hope that you'll show your own children around campus, pointing out where your classes once were, and knowing with pride that your accomplishments and dedication are what helped move us from good to great.

Thank you for choosing Ivy Tech for your education. Thank you for the contributions you are about to make to your community, your family and the economy. We encourage you to continue with your pursuit of learning, and to make it a life-long effort. Education is the greatest gift you can ever give yourself.

Thank you.

(President Snyder speaks, and after his presentation, Dr. Marilyn Faulkenburg comes to the stage.)

VICE CHANCELLOR FAULKENBURG

Good evening. I am Dr. Marilyn Faulkenburg. I am Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and I am so pleased to be a part of graduation this evening. As you know, this is a record-setting number of graduates receiving their degrees tonight, and it makes me incredibly happy to see so many people improving their lives through the power of education.

Tonight, we are among friends. And Ivy Tech Southern Indiana has several friends that deserve some special recognition this evening. Our first recipient is someone whose name you know well. Former State Representative William C. Cochran, better known to friends as Bill, is currently Assistant to the Chancellor at Indiana University Southeast. Bill was first elected to the state legislature in 1974.

Bill's efforts both in and out of the legislature have also made him well respected in the local community. A strong supporter for education, Bill has made possible such projects as the Falls of the Ohio State Park, and several projects at

IU Southeast. Bill was also able to obtain planning and construction funds for a new library on the campus. He has also been instrumental in securing funding for the planned capital project on Ivy Tech's campus and for many programs and initiatives on our campus. In 2000, Hoosiers for Higher Education honored Bill's dedication and hard work, presenting him the Welsh-Bowen Distinguished Public Official Award. He has helped push the cause of education repeatedly in his 34 years in the Indiana Legislature, and we are grateful for all of his support and work on our behalf.

This evening, we are presenting him an honorary associate's degree. Bill, please come forward and receive this recognition for your outstanding commitment to education in Indiana.

(Bill comes forward, receives honorary degree from Rita, and shakes hands with her and poses for a photo. He sits back down, and Marilyn goes back to podium.)

Congratulations, Bill. You certainly deserve it.

Our next award is the Ivy Tech Southern Indiana Friend of the College Award, which will be presented to the Don and Bobbie Perkins family. Their son, Paul Perkins is a co-

founder of Amatrol, a high-tech startup in Jeffersonville that creates technical educational systems for educational institutions. Perkins is a long-time supporter of technical education and a member of our regional board of trustees. His family also has invested in the future of education in Southern Indiana by establishing a scholarship fund with Ivy Tech, the Don and Bobbie Perkins Scholarship Fund, in honor of Mr. Perkins' parents. The Perkins family truly understands the value of education, and has long supported our efforts to help more area residents achieve their educational goals.

We're very thankful for their support and are presenting them with the Ivy Tech Friend of the College award today to publicly recognize them for their work on our behalf.

Accepting this award on behalf of the Perkins family is *(insert name)*.

(Friend of College representative walks on stage to receive plaque from Shourds. Pause for photo.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Each college and university is only as strong as its faculty. In this respect, Ivy Tech Southern Indiana is truly blessed.

Each year, in recognition of faculty excellence, an outstanding faculty member is selected from each Ivy Tech campus to be honored with the President's Award and given consideration for the statewide Glenn W. Sample Award for Excellence in Instruction. Many of you know Ms. Susan Morganti, but I want to share with you today some of the qualities that make her worthy of this honor.

Ms. Morganti currently serves as Associate Professor in the School of Fine Arts and Design. The nomination of Ms. Morganti highlights a stellar academic career that's encompassed successful positions as a faculty member, administrative leader, and statewide innovator.

Her emphasis on student engagement, case studies, and real-world experience have created a legacy of teaching excellence. Her initiatives have included encouraging students to enter competitions, and their work has won rave reviews from experts in the field. She also helped students design and compile a megaZINE, which showcases graphic design work of students each spring.

Please join me in congratulating our 2009 Glenn W. Sample Award nominee and President's Award winner, Ms. Susan Morganti. We ask Ms. Morganti to stand up and be recognized now.

(PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE; MORGANTI STANDS TO BE RECOGNIZED IN PLACE, WAITS FOR APPLAUSE, AND SITS BACK DOWN)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Congratulations Ms. Morganti.

We are assembled to recognize the tremendous accomplishment of each Ivy Tech Southern Indiana graduate. Through hard work and determination, they have reached an educational milestone. We also recognize their family and friends whose inspiration, understanding and assistance contributed to their success.

We recognize the vital contribution of the college's Administration, State Board of Trustees, and Regional Board of Trustees.

Finally, we recognize the region's faculty, staff, and administration. They are skilled professionals in their respective career fields, committed to the success of our students. Ivy Tech faculty, staff and administration here tonight please stand now and be recognized.

(PAUSE FOR APPLAUSE)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

On this remarkable night, we also take time to recognize an outstanding member of the Ivy Tech Southern Indiana alumni. This annual award is given to an alumni member who has moved from successful college graduate to exceptional career professional. Mr. Bob Corum is the alumnus of the year for this campus. He is a Senior Graphic Designer at Indiana University Southeast and lives in New Albany.

He has an associate's degree from Ivy Tech in Commercial Art Technology program (now known as Visual Communications) in 1977, and has worked successfully as a graphic designer in many different environments. His work-related achievements include earning many accolades in his field for his graphic design work during his 30-year career. In 1988, he received a Merit Award from New York Art Directors Club for the Kentucky Derby Festival mini-marathon poster which launched the tradition of awarding memento posters to all runners. The poster was also recognized by the International Festivals Association as Best Promotional Poster. In 1995, he was awarded Best Downtown Promotional Campaign award by the Indiana Main Street Program for a multi-piece campaign designed for the historic district of Madison, Indiana.

In 2006, his work received a Silver Louie Award for creating a series of publications for IU Southeast's new student orientation collateral materials.

We're proud to say that even with his busy schedule, he has remained involved with Ivy Tech. He has served on the Visual Communication Advisory Board for Ivy Tech Southern Indiana and served as an adjunct instructor for the program.

There is so much more we could say about this alumnus, but instead, we're going to introduce you to him and have him come forward and accept this award. Please join me in congratulating the 2009 Ivy Tech Southern Indiana Alumnus of the Year, Bob Corum.

(BOB WALKS ON STAGE TO RECEIVE PLAQUE FROM FAULKENBURG. PAUSE FOR PHOTO.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Congratulations Bob, and thank you for joining us this evening.

We now take great pride in honoring the best and brightest of our graduating students. The Academic Excellence

Awards highlight the achievement and performance of select members from our Class of 2009. Faculty from our degree programs nominated and selected their most deserving graduates. Selections were based on a combination of academic, leadership, and citizenship accomplishments. The Academic Excellence Awards would not be possible without support from our corporate and professional community. We are grateful to the individuals and organizations sponsoring each award. The Academic Excellence Award winners and sponsors are listed in your commencement program. Each nominee and winner was formally honored at the recent Student Awards Banquet. We ask now that all Academic Excellence Award nominees and winners please stand for a round of applause for your accomplishments.

(APPLAUSE)

Tonight we announce for the first time the recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence. The Chancellor's Award is presented to the graduate who has produced exceptional academic work while also contributing to the quality of their college and their community. When the Chancellor's Award recipient is announced, I ask that they come forward to receive their award.

(Pause)

The 2009 Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence goes to one of the first to graduate with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice. Heather Harris has maintained perfect attendance in all of her classes. She has served as the Vice President of the Criminal Justice Student Association. In this difficult first year of the association, she was the stabilizing force which kept the association in-tact. She has volunteered to assist in the "Vests for Valor" fundraising effort to raise money for tactical vests for SWAT units in the Sellersburg and Charlestown police departments. Heather Harris exemplifies the highest standard for the criminal justice program. As a member of the first graduating class in the criminal justice program, she is the example for others to follow. Heather, please come forward and receive your award with our hearty congratulations.

(Heather comes forward to receive award)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Congratulations to Heather and to all of our Academic Excellence Award winners.

(Pause)

This is usually the part of the program where we call on one outstanding member of our graduating class to address their fellow graduates. But this year, we are very fortunate, because we've asked two students to provide addresses to you. We had many accomplished and eloquent applicants for the privilege of speaking to you, and we simply couldn't choose. The first of the two speakers will give her address in just a moment; the second will come near the conclusion of the ceremony.

The individual selected to offer this year's first commencement address is receiving an associate's degree in business administration. Angela Penn is one of many of our students who is pursuing an education while balancing a lot of demands. She works full-time while raising her two boys on her own. Even as she has completed this important goal to earn her associate's degree, she has enrolled at Indiana University Southeast to continue her education. She plans to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance and become a certified public accountant. We all admire her dedication to her work, her studies and her family. Angela, please come forward now.

***(ANGELA COMES TO PODIUM, FAULKENBURG
TAKES SEAT)***

Graduate Address by Angela Penn

(After giving address, Angela returns to seat. Marilyn goes back to podium.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Thank you, Angela, not only for your words this evening but for your accomplishments as an outstanding Ivy Tech Southern Indiana graduate.

(Pause)

It is a privilege to have Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson with us this evening. I would like to share a little about the Mayor before he begins. There is a lengthy biography of the Mayor in your program, so I'll just hit a few highlights here.

Mayor Jerry Abramson is the longest serving mayor in the history of Louisville. Abramson served three terms as Mayor of the City of Louisville and is currently in his second term as Mayor of the consolidated city of Louisville Metro.

During his first two terms as mayor of the City of Louisville, he worked diligently to elevate the city to first-class standing among America's large cities. He led an expansion of

Louisville's airport and supported revitalizing the Louisville's waterfront.

During this term as mayor of the consolidated city and county governments, he has helped attract, retain and create new jobs, enhance the city's downtown and its parks and promote healthy living among its residents. One of the reasons we feel a bond with the Mayor is his promotion of regionalism. He understands the importance of working together with his neighbors across the river, including Ivy Tech, to accomplish goals that benefit us all.

He has been recognized nationally and regionally for his leadership. In 2005, he was named Kentucky's best civic leader for the fifth time by *Kentucky Monthly* magazine. And in 2003, he was named a Public Official of the Year, *Governing* magazine.

Ladies and gentleman, please join me in welcoming Mayor Jerry Abramson.

(After Jerry Abramson speaks, Marilyn Faulkenburg returns to podium.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Thank you Mayor Abramson for your words of inspiration

and for joining us for this night of celebration.

We now come to the moment you've all worked for, the moment for each of you to shine before family and friends, faculty and administration. It is my pleasure to begin the conferring of degrees and certificates.

Will the marshals have the graduates rise and come forward.

I will now ask Mary Springer, assistant vice chancellor of student life, to come forward and read the names of the graduates.

(Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg and President Snyder go to the front to greet and shake hands as graduates cross the stage. Catherine Sherrard comes forward to assist. Mary Springer reads graduate names. After all graduates have received their diploma, Faulkenburg returns to the podium.)

Mary Springer

Thank you.. Please note that we will be reading names by school, as listed in your program.

(Mary then reads names of graduates. When she is finished, she will return to her seat and Marilyn will come to the podium.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

I now ask President Snyder to come forward to confer your degrees.

(Vice Chancellor asks graduates to rise by degree. President Snyder officially confers degree status.)

Will all candidates for the Associate of Science Degree please rise

(Pause)

Will all candidates for the Associate of Applied Science Degree please rise

(Pause)

Will all candidates for the Associate of Arts Degree please rise

(Pause)

Will all candidates for the Technical Certificate please rise

(Pause)

President Snyder, I present the candidates.

(President Snyder steps to the podium to confer degrees.)

President Snyder

Exercising the authority of the State and Regional Boards of Trustees, legally vested by the General Assembly and Governor of Indiana, and delegated by the trustees to me, I now recognize the faculty and administration's recommendation for your successful completion of the prescribed courses of study. And, I confer upon each of you the appropriate Associate of Science Degree, Associate in Applied Science Degree, Associate of Arts degree or Technical Certificate, as recommended with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities that go with it.

(Vice Chancellor moves forward as President Snyder returns to seat.)

Vice Chancellor Faulkenburg

Thank you, President Snyder. As tradition holds, I now ask the Ivy Tech Southern Indiana Class of 2009 to move the tassels from the right side of their caps to the left side, symbolic of making the transition from student to graduate. Congratulations.

(Vice Chancellor leads applause.)

Finally, this evening, we have our second student speaker, who represents a large contingent of our graduates. She earned her associate of science in nursing degree from Ivy Tech. Cara PAV-la-ka is a registered nurse and qualified mental retardation professional. She has served individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities at Quality Community Services for the past 16 years. This rewarding career allows her to help improve quality of life and to promote independence for her patients. She plans to continue her work at QCS and to pursue a certification in developmental disabilities nursing. Cara, please come forward and speak to us about your experiences.

(Cara comes forward, Marilyn sits down. Cara speaks. When she is finished, she sits down and Chancellor Shourds comes back to the podium.)

Chancellor Shourds

In conclusion this evening, I would like to offer you the words of a traditional Irish blessing: “May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.”

Chancellor Shourds

Ladies and gentlemen, the 2009 annual commencement of Ivy Tech Southern Indiana is adjourned. As the Recessional begins, we ask that you please remain in your seats until the graduates have exited the auditorium.

Thank you and good night.

(Music to begin when the last row of graduates stands up.)

Recessional

(Speakers and honored guests should remain until all graduates have exited.)

