

Congratulations class of 2016. Today marks the end of your three year journey at IMSA and the end of my first year. You have a couple of years experience on me. Yes I am more or less like a sophomore. At your two year reunion check back with me and we can compare notes. In all seriousness I want to take a few moments to have you ponder how are you going to define your own success. You may not have given this much thought but yes you get to set the metrics for your success. Given your three years of inquiry based learning I am confident that you will in fact solve this problem. Maybe only moments before it is due. But solve it you must. In order to get you started, I offer one measure for your consideration, one given by the artist Beyonce in her song *I am here*. I would encourage you to listen to the entire song but for now consider the following lines “

I just want them to know
That I gave my all, did my best
Brought someone to happiness
Left this world a little better just because

I offer you this measure because it sums up a philosophy in which I believe and one I hope you will consider. When I ask myself “how did I do today or this year” I am really asking did I give it my all, did I do my best, is someone else better off just because I am here. My assessment is related to the answers to these questions, not the results. As an example, my freshmen year in college I received a BC in an introductory English class. I would be lying if I did not admit I was bit disappointed in the grade but I knew I had given it my all and done my best. What else could I have done. I did not let this one course grade define me. In the end I successfully completed my undergraduate studies and went on to grad school. Today

we celebrate the successful accomplishments of the class of 2016. You have worked hard and for many there have been moments when you may have been disappointed in your performance. In the end you did not let it define you and you persevered to get to today. Well done. In closing I challenge you to determine for your self how will you know if you have been successful. In other words how will we all know you were here!

Mr President, it is my honor to present to you the members of the class of 2016 all of whom have gone through a rigorous course of study. Today the class is prepared to receive medallions.