



Pratt Community College
May 15, 1992
8:00 p.m.
Sports Arena



committed to student success

Pratt Community College/
Area Vocational School

Commencement '92

Pratt Community College Graduating Class of 1992



Associate of Science

Craig T. Atkinson
 Brenda Jo Austin
 Deborah J. Barker ••
 Timothy Scott Barnes
 Debra Beat-Topham •••
 Travis Paul Bourgeois •••
 Linda S. Brooks
 Michelle L. Buchanan
 Stephanie Ann Burgardt
 Larry A. Burke, Jr.
 Jason Ryan Casso
 Steven M. Cornelius ••
 Lisa A. Cromer
 Tuanua Juline Dickson
 Karen Dirks •
 R. Dean Dinkel
 Robert Lance Drake
 Christopher D. Drake
 Steven Anton Drake
 Kris Drummond •••
 Melissa Lynn Dunn ••
 Andrea Lynn Dwyer
 Darla A. Eisenman
 Thad Emerson
 Angela M. Emery
 Eric Joseph Endres
 Troy Edward Fitzgerald
 Brandon Paul Forssberg
 Cindy Danice Gillespie
 Rebecca Jane Green
 Brad Grimes
 Brian Mark Goatley
 Teresa Jean Hargett
 George P. Hearn
 David Alan Herredsberg ••
 Shelby D. Hogan
 Penny A. Hughes
 Robert E. Hughes
 Susan Hughes
 Craig August Huhman
 Patrick Wayne Jay

Judy Lynn Kelley
 Mark Adam Kostenbauer
 Shane L. Lahman
 Joseph Felipe Leiblie
 Debra Lemon •••
 Paul Edward Luebbers
 Vera Marie Lutz
 Melissa Kay McCollough •••
 Danelle Diane McFarland •••
 Venissa Zane McMillian
 Brandy Uriah Mead
 Kelly S. Mertens
 Michael Lynn Mertens
 Brian James Myers
 John Michael Midiros, Jr.
 Jason Lee Miller
 Deborah Mills
 Kelley G. Murphy
 Nephtali Nucamendi M.
 James Otis Peoples
 Darren C. Pittenger
 Kevin Nelson Randolph
 Melvin C. Rodarmel
 Rita J. Robbins
 Tyler Charles Simpson
 Valerie Sletto •••
 Theodore F. Stahl •••
 Christina Diane Traver
 R.A. Turley
 Patricia Jone Unruh ••
 Brian Lynn Wadel
 Darin Lynn Wagner
 Kirk Edward White
 Jason Harold Wiley
 Toby Ray Wilson
 Julia Colleen Yancheck

Associate of Applied Science

Gary Eugene Albers •••
 Carla D. Bailey
 Cheryl Bailey •••

Donata Sue Ball
 Rebecca Becker
 Cathy A. Blasi •
 Debi Call
 Debra R. Capansky
 Daryl Wade Chronister
 Karran Marlyne Conaway
 Charles J. Darnell, Jr.
 Patrick S. Eastes
 Kimberly Ann Helms ••
 Leah S. Killingsworth
 Andrea Dyan Kropf ••
 Deanna Kay Ludwig ••
 Bonnie Jo Echo McCloskey
 Cynthia McGuire
 Jennifer Renee Martin •••
 Scott Edward Mueller
 Susan Kay Oller •••
 Pamela A. Sanderson
 Elnora Ann Scott •••
 Rollin R. Shocklee
 Nina Arlene Shreve
 Ty Lean Snyder
 Michael James Unrein •••
 Kevin Lee Wilson

Associate of General Studies

Deedra L. Haskins
 Diane N. Webb

Certificate Candidates

Jeff W. Allton
 Shawna Sue Anthony
 Diana Jean Benson
 Susan Leigh Bracelin
 Brandon Cates
 Joe Ceballos
 Sharon Dee Coleman
 Karran Marlyne Conaway
 Terry E. Daniels
 Robert A. Dick

- Summa Cum Laude (grade point average of 3.9-4.0)
- Magna Cum Laude (grade point average of 3.75-3.9)
- Cum Laude (grade point average of 3.5-3.75)



Certificate Candidates (con't.)

Angela M. Emery
Jose L. Garvalena
Doreen Dee Glaze
Lane Keith Gourley
Gary Wade Hurst
Randall Scott Jantz
Deanna Kay Ludwig
Eva M. Merchant
Elmer D. Nelson
Sheri Ann Olsen
Brian J. Slate
Michael Harlow Shook
Nina Arlene Shreve
Arnold A. Stradt
Daryl Joseph Wilhelm
Mitchall W. Woodruff

GED Graduates

Regina Caldwell
Karen V. Conner
Karen Lea Ostrom-Fisher
Bobbi Starr Hutson Fu
Julie Miriam Depenbusch
Dawn Gettings
Horace Lee
Leroy Dean Lewis
Michael Jerome Moore
James Moorland
Tammy M. Mounts
Jean McAdams
Sean Travis Osborn
Tabitha Lynell Osborn
Angela D. Piland
Ann M. Seal
Christopher Shawn Shaw
Shelly Jean Smith
Jennifer Snider
Don R. Staats
Tabrina R. Buchanan Stevens
Erin Lythe Whiteley
Jeffrey Wiltshire

Pratt Community College Board of Trustees

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Vice Chairman
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Darrell Shumway

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President
Bill Bryan
Dean of Student Services
Ken Clouse
Dean of Special Programs
Duane Dunn
Dean of Occupational Education
Charles Ray
Dean of Finance
Jim Stratford
Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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Janet DeWeese
Dwane DeWeese
Loree Gilpin
Diane Ingram
Jack Meyers
Marvin Proctor
Johnna Roberts
Cindy Snell
Janice Wood

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Jack Meyers
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Treasurer
Ed Barrett
Mari Pat Brooks
Dona Cramer
Ann Fewin
Jack Galle
Kenny Gates
Thad Henry
LeRoy Jones
Nancy Kerr
Rod Lesh
John Megaffin
Brenda Piester
Ron Shank
Bette Skaggs
Jud Stanion
Gordon Stull
Dr. William Wojciechowski
Jean Sommer-Brehm
Pat Gordon
Sandi Fruit

Special Guests



Commencement Speaker Senator Bob Dole

Senator Bob Dole, one of America's most respected and best known leaders, has a distinguished record of public service that spans almost four decades. Respected as a master legislator, Dole was unanimously reelected by his Republican colleagues to a third term as their Senate leader in November of 1988.

A tough, common sense conservative from America's heartland, Dole has earned national acclaim for his leadership on issues including budget responsibility, tax reform, a sound Social Security system, quality and affordable health care, rights for the disadvantaged and persons with disabilities, and for a better future for rural America.

Dole entered public office for the first time when he was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives at the age of 26. Two years later he became Russell County's prosecuting attorney, an office he held until his 1960 election to Congress.

Dole later became Republican national chairman and President Gerald Ford's running mate in the 1976 presidential election. In the past two senate elections in Kansas - 1980 and 1986 - Bob Dole won every one of the state's 105 counties.

Dole was first elected to the United States Senate in 1968, after serving four consecutive terms in the House of Representatives. From 1981-84, he was Chairman of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, where he was instrumental with President Reagan in laying the foundation for America's strongest economic recovery in 30 years.

Pratt Community College welcomes Senator Dole and is proud to have him as our guest.

Outstanding Alumnus Award Recipient Clarence J. Beck

Clarence James Beck was a member of Pratt Community College's first graduating class of 1940. He went on to Kansas University, graduating in 1943 with a degree in Metallurgic Engineering.

While in Pratt, he met and married his wife, Hazel, who was working as the superintendent of the Ninescah Hospital. The Becks have one child, Dr. Linda K. Beck.

Beck spent 27 years of his successful career working for General Electric at the Knoll's Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) in Schenectady, New York. While at KAPL several inventions were patented and technical papers published. Beck was involved in the design and management of nuclear propulsion submarines and worked closely with Admiral Hyman Rickover. Following his first "retirement" from Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, he accepted a position with Combustion Engineering, Inc., as an executive assistant to the general manager. This position involved coordination of specifications and quality control for production of nuclear parts by major steel companies in the United States and Europe.

Throughout his illustrious career, he has maintained close, personal ties with Pratt Community College and the University of Kansas.

Clarence Beck built an outstanding career, credits much of his first success to his first college, and has never forgotten the value of his community college education. He is an outstanding example of an individual who recognized the value of an education, took advantage of the opportunities before him and capitalized on his talents. Pratt Community College and the PCC Alumni Association are honored to recognize Clarence Beck as the 1992 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year.

The Program



Processional

Presentation of Colors

Julie DeWeese - Randy Dinkel

Invocation

Rev. Ralph Nevius

Welcome

Dr. William A. Wojciechowski
Pratt Community College President

Outstanding Alumnus Award

Presented to Clarence Beck

Musical Selections

We Hold The Future
composed by Jerry Ray
Performed by:
the PCC Concert Choir

Representative Honor Graduate

Travis Bourgeois

Outstanding Special Populations Vocational Student in Kansas

Deanna Ludwig

Commencement Address

Senator Bob Dole

Certification of Candidates for Graduation

Jim Stratford
Dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Acceptance of Candidates for Graduation

Dr. William A. Wojciechowski

Reading of Candidates Names and Degrees

Bill Bryan
Dean of Student Services

Presentation of Associate Degrees and Certificates Presentation of GED Diplomas

Bruce Benson

Benediction

Rev. Ralph Nevius

Recessional

Reception following in the Upper College Commons Area
Audience should remain seated until
graduates have exited the arena.

Marshalls: LaDessa Forrest - Martin Galvan

Ushers: Jennifer Brown - Fred Haynes
Liz Wacker - Vicki Sommerfeld - LaRona Nichols

Stage Hand: Derryl Patterson

Handwritten notes:
P. 26
1940
E. Dole
B. C.

Academic Procession



Karen Allison
Instructor of Mathematics

Mary Babcock
Instructor of English

Carolyn Banks
Director of Nursing

Jan Blasi
Instructor of Nursing

Carol Bonham
Instructor of Chemistry/Science/
Honors Program

Dedra Brant
Instructor of Physical Education/
Sociology

MariPat Brooks
Instructor of Child Care/Education

Mike Brooks
Instructor of Electrical Power
Distribution

Jerry Burkhardt
Satellite Director/Tech Prep Coord.

Hannah Clarke
Off-Campus Coordinator

David Cramer
Instructor of Psychology/Sociology

Richard Cramer
Instructor of English

Ed Davis
Instructor of Vocal Music

Tamera Davis
Instructor of English/ABE-GED Coord.

Richard Deen
Instructor of Welding

Wanda Deen
Instructor of Accounting

Monette DePew
Instructor of Language Arts

Dwane DeWeese
Instructor of Auto/Diesel

Carmen Forest
Instructor of Physical Education/
Wellness Program Director

Verneene Forssberg
Instructor of Social Science

Mary Gordon
Instructor Office Technology

Pat Gordon
Instructor of Business/Marketing

Sue Greenleaf
Off-Campus Coordinator
ABE/GED Instructor

Sue Helmke
Coordinator, Nurse Assistant Program

David Holliday
Instructor of Agriculture

Galen Hughbanks
Off-Campus Coordinator
ABE/GED Instructor

Erskine Hughes
Library Director

Janis Jilg
Instructor of Nursing

Joe Johnson
Instructor of Physical Education/
Business

Carrie Kaifes
Instructor of Physical Education

Linda Kruckenberg
Instructor of English

Gerald Latimer
Instructor of Aircraft Maintenance

Gail Little
Instructor of Nursing

Daryl Lucas
Instructor of Auto/Diesel

Dedra Manes
Instructor of Business

Mike Mathes
Instructor of Speech

Jack Messer
Instructor of Mathematics/Science

Greg Morris
Instructor of Physical Education

Dan Needham
Instructor of Building Trades

Rocky Patterson
Instructor of Agriculture

Kathryn Petz
ABE/GED Instructor

Patricia Plank
Instructor of Nursing

Marvin Proctor
Instructor of Mathematics

Dr. Ramona Rice
Instructor of Biology

Brenda Schiltz
Instructor of Journalism

Marsha Shrack
Instructor of Art

Mark Smith
Instructor of Music

Kenna Teel
Instructor of Office Technology

Shannon Thom
Instructor of Technical Education

Gregg Wade
Instructor of History/Government

Jane Wallace
Off-Campus Coordinator

Ed Wilkerson
Instructor of Physical Education/
Athletic Trainer

Mike Williams
Instructor of Chemistry/Biology

Gene Wineland
Instructor of Art

Graduating Members of Phi Theta Kappa

Gary Albers

Cheryl Bailey

Debbie Barker

Travis Bourgeois

Susan Bracelin

Linda Brooks

Steven Cornelius

Melissa Dunn

Brad Grimes

David Herredsberg

Craig Huhman

Andrea Kropf

Debra Lemon

Deanna Ludwig

Jennifer Martin

Melissa McCollough

Danelle McFarland

Susan Oller

Elnora Scott

Ted Stahl

Deb Beat-Topham

Christina Diane Traver

Michael Unrein

Patricia Unruh

1992 Scholarship & Achievement Awards



Laura E. Porter Educational Trust Scholarship Awards

Steve Cornelius
David Herredsberg
Gary Albers
Travis Bourgeois
Michael Unrein
Ted Stahl
Tyler Simpson
Dean Dinkel
Brian Goatley
Craig Huhman
Paul Luebbers
Patrick Jay
Brandon Forssberg
Kevin Randolph
Tim Barnes
Eric Endres

B.V. Hampton Scholarship Award

Ted Stahl

Novotny Memorial Scholarship

Karen Dirks

Laura E. Porter Educational Trust Achievement Awards

Brian Wadel
R.A. Turley
Brian Meyers
Mark Kostenbauer
Kirk White
Troy Fitzgerald
Jason Casso
Jason Wiley
Joseph Leiblie
John Midiros
Kelly Murphy
Bob Dick
Thad Emerson
Otis Peoples

Clarence & Hazel Beck Scholarship Fund

Kim Balding
Craig Huhman
Deb Beat-Topham

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE\REGIONAL VOCATIONAL CENTER
PREPARED BY DAVID WILSON

PUBLIC RECEPTION PRECEDES GRADUATION PROGRAM (15-20 MIN.)

15 PEOPLE WILL BE ON STAGE WITH YOU DURING PROGRAM.

DR. WILLIAM WOJCIECHOWSKI (WATCH-A-HOUSE-SKI), SCHOOL PRESIDENT

GARY WITHROW, CHAIR-ELECT OF KS DEPT. VOC. ED.

TRAVIS BOURGEOIS (BOO-ZHWA), REPRESENTATIVE HONOR GRADUATE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ED BARRET, BRUCE BENSON

TOM BLACK, DARRELL SHUMWAY

DENNIS HUFF, PAUL HAYS

DR. PHIL FARMER

SCHOOL DEANS

JIM STRATFORD, BILL BRYAN

CHARLES RAY, KIM CLOUSE,

DUANE DUNN

SPECIFIC TO PRATT:

O BOTH A COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND AREA VOCATIONAL CENTER.

O APPROX. 140 GRADUATES. RECOGNITION OF 25 GED GRADS IS IMPORTANT.

O SERVES 1700 STUDENTS AND A 7-COUNTY AREA.

O COLLEGE FOUNDED IN 1938. MOVED TO CURRENT CAMPUS IN 1968.

O AREA VOCATIONAL CENTER ESTABLISHED IN 1983.

O LAST YEAR, OVER 35,000 PEOPLE USED PRATT'S CAMPUS.

O OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD WILL GO TO CLARENCE BECK, A RETIRED GENERAL ELECTRIC NUCLEAR ENGINEER AND MEMBER OF PRATT'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS (1940). HE WAS CONDUCTED INTO KU'S ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME EARLIER THIS YEAR.

O OUTSTANDING SPECIAL POPULATIONS VOC/TECH STUDENT IN KS WILL GO TO DEANNA LUDWIG. SHE IS A MOTHER WHO PUT HERSELF THROUGH SCHOOL BY WORKING TWO JOBS. SHE INTENDS TO CONTINUE HER EDUCATION.

PRATT'S NEW AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

PRATT IS ON THE VERGE OF STARTING AN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM, BUT NEEDS FAA CERTIFICATION. FAA'S REVIEW HAS BEEN PENDING SINCE FEBRUARY BECAUSE A GREEN PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR EITHER GAVE THE SCHOOL LOW PRIORITY OR WAS SIMPLY OVERWHELMED WITH HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.

FAA CERTIFICATION IS NECESSARY TO ENROLL STUDENTS FOR THE FALL PROGRAM. FURTHERMORE, THE LACK OF CERTIFICATION COULD JEOPARDIZE PRATT'S 3-YEAR \$300,000 U.S. DEPT. OF ED. TITLE III GRANT. YOU WROTE A SUPPORT LETTER TO SEC. ALEXANDER REGARDING THIS GRANT.

I SPOKE TO GREG S. ABOUT RESOLVING THIS ISSUE. GREG TALKED TO THE FAA AND WAS ASSURED THAT THEY WILL BE IN PRATT ON FRIDAY (MAY 15TH) TO DETERMINE IF THE SCHOOL HAS THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT. IF SO, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT EVERYTHING IS A GO.

PERKINS AND TECH-PREP PROGRAM

PRATT HAS UNDERTAKEN AN AMBITIOUS 8 SERVICE SITE (HIGH SCHOOLS) TECH-PREP PROJECT, AND HOPES TO EXPAND INSTRUCTION THROUGH INTERACTIVE

CABLE. THE TECH-PREP CONCEPT IS NEW AND WAS INCLUDED IN THE 1990 REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CARL PERKINS VOC/ED ACT (YOU SUPPORTED IT). THESE PROGRAMS SMOOTH THE TRANSITION BETWEEN SCHOOL AND THE WORK PLACE BY ENABLING LABOR-ORIENTED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO TAKE TWO-YEARS OF ACADEMIC EDUCATION AND TWO-YEARS OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CC'S AND JUCO'S

THE SENATE VERSION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION PROVIDES FOR A DEPT. OF EDUCATION LIAISON FOR CC'S. WHILE THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT AS STRONG AS HATFIELD'S BILL TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE CC OFFICE WITH IN ED (WHICH YOU COSPONSORED), THE LIAISON WILL ADVISE THE SECRETARY ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES. HIGHER ED IS NOW IN CONFERENCE.

SENATOR BOB DOLE

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MAY 15, 1992

**THANK YOU. IT'S A REAL
PLEASURE TO JOIN YOU THIS
EVENING. OVER THE YEARS, I'VE
HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF
ATTENDING QUITE A FEW
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES,
AND I'VE ENJOYED THEM ALL.**

**EVERYONE IS PROUD TO BE
HERE. EVERYONE--STUDENTS,
THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE
FACULTY-- HAS SOMETHING TO
CELEBRATE.**

**GENERALLY, THE ONLY BAD
PART ABOUT GRADUATIONS IS
THAT THEY ALWAYS INCLUDE A
GRADUATION SPEAKER. I'VE
LEARNED THAT GRADUATION**

**SPEAKERS SHOULD FOLLOW
THE "3 B'S RULE"--BE BRIEF, BE
SINCERE, BE SEATED.**

**BEFORE I AM SEATED,
HOWEVER, I DO WANT TO
CONGRATULATE PRATT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR
BEING SELECTED TO RECEIVE A
NEW ADDITION TO YOUR**

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
PROGRAM.

**IN ADDITION TO YOUR
CURRENT PISTON DRIVEN AND
TURBO PROP AIRCRAFT, PRATT
WILL NOW ENTER THE JET AGE.**

**I HAVE JUST LEARNED AND
AM PLEASED TO MAKE THE
FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
OF THE FACT THAT THE**

GENERAL SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION HAS SELECTED

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE --

IN A TOUGH COMPETITION WITH

SEVERAL OTHER COLLEGES --

TO RECEIVE A LOCKHEED

JETSTAR AIRCRAFT.

THIS AIRPLANE WILL PROVIDE

HANDS ON TRAINING FOR JET

ENGINES, STATE-OF-THE ART

**AVIONICS, AND LARGE AIRCRAFT
EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS
ENROLLED IN THIS TOP FLIGHT
PROGRAM. INDEED, PRATT
COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS
GAINING NATIONAL ATTENTION
FOR EXCELLENCE. WHY DON'T
YOU GIVE YOURSELF A ROUND
OF APPLAUSE.**

**PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IS PART OF A TRUE AMERICAN
SUCCESS STORY.**

**WHEN THIS INSTITUTION WAS
FOUNDED BACK IN THE 1940'S,
JUST 300,000 AMERICANS WERE
ENROLLED IN AMERICA'S
COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR
COLLEGES. TODAY, THAT**

**NUMBER HAS GROWN TO MORE
THAN SIX MILLION.**

**WHILE STUDENTS OF ALL
AGES AND ALL WALKS OF LIFE
ARE TURNING TO COMMUNITY
COLLEGES, THE BIGGEST
INCREASE HAS COME IN SO-
CALLED "NON-TRADITIONAL"
STUDENTS--STUDENTS WHO ARE
OVER 25 YEARS OF AGE.**

**STUDENTS LIKE DEANNA
LUDWIG, A MEMBER OF THE
CLASS OF 1992, WHO IS BEING
RECOGNIZED TONIGHT AS
KANSAS'S FIRST OUTSTANDING
SPECIAL POPULATIONS
VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL
STUDENT.**

**DEANNA'S STORY IS A TRUE
INSPIRATION--AND IT'S TYPICAL**

**OF OTHER STORIES ACROSS
THE NATION--STORIES OF MEN
AND WOMEN WHO WANT TO
KEEP UP WITH TODAY'S
CHANGING WORLD--WHO KNOW
THAT EDUCATION IS FOR
EVERYBODY.**

**AND IN TODAY'S COMPLEX
GLOBAL ECONOMY, THAT**

**MESSAGE HAS NEVER BEEN
MORE IMPORTANT.**

**THE JOBS WHICH AWAIT YOU
ARE MORE COMPLEX--
REQUIRING BETTER READING,
WRITING, REASONING, MATH,
AND SCIENCE SKILLS.**

**SERVICE TECHNICIANS AND
MECHANICS WHO ONCE
TIGHTENED BOLTS ON**

**ASSEMBLY LINES, NOW HAVE TO
MAKE DECISIONS AND OPERATE
COMPUTERS WHICH CONTROL
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH
OF COMPLEX MACHINERY.**

**LARGE AND SMALL
BUSINESSES ARE LEARNING
THAT IF THEY ARE TO SUCCEED,
THEN THEIR WORKFORCE MUST
BE INVOLVED IN EVERY ASPECT**

OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

**THOSE WHO WANT TO
SUCCEED IN THE JOB MARKET
MUST BE CONSTANTLY READY
TO TACKLE NEW CHALLENGES,
TO TAKE ON NEW
ASSIGNMENTS, TO MOVE IN NEW
DIRECTIONS, AND TO LEARN
NEW WAYS OF DOING THINGS.**

**AND THE FACT IS THAT THOSE
WHO DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS
AND EDUCATION REQUIRED BY
TODAY'S EMPLOYERS, WILL BE
LEFT BEHIND, IN JOBS THAT
OFFER LITTLE HOPE OF
ADVANCEMENT.**

**EQUIPPING YOURSELF WITH
SKILLS AND EDUCATION IS NOT
JUST IMPORTANT TO YOUR**

**FUTURE--IT'S IMPORTANT TO
AMERICA'S FUTURE, AS WELL.**

**A COUNTRY'S WORKFORCE--
AND NOT IT'S MILITARY FORCE--
NOW DETERMINES ITS PLACE IN
THE LIST OF WORLD
SUPERPOWERS.**

**AND AMERICA'S PLACE ON
THAT LIST IS NOT YET ASSURED,
AS JAPAN AND KOREA**

**CONTINUE THEIR REMARKABLE
RECORD OF ECONOMIC
GROWTH.**

**AND THE COUNTRIES OF
WESTERN EUROPE HAVE
FORMED A UNITED MARKET--A
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY--WITH A
COMBINED GROSS NATIONAL
PRODUCT LARGER THAN OURS.
AND MANY OF THE NEWLY**

**EMERGING DEMOCRACIES IN
EASTERN EUROPE CAN BOAST
YOUNG WORKFORCES, AND
NEARLY UNIVERSAL LITERACY.
AND, OF COURSE,
INCREASING GLOBAL
COMPETITION IS NOT THE ONLY
PROBLEM AMERICA FACES IN
THE YEARS AHEAD. THERE ARE
MANY OTHERS.**

**A FOUR TRILLION DOLLAR
NATIONAL DEBT, FOR INSTANCE.**

**AND A FEELING AMONG
AMERICANS THAT FOREIGN AID
IS A WASTE OF MONEY, AT A
TIME WHEN THE EMERGING
DEMOCRACIES NEED OUR HELP
IF THEY ARE TO SURVIVE.**

**WE ALSO HAVE THE MOST
ADVANCED HEALTH CARE**

**FACILITIES IN THE WORLD, YET
THEY ARE OUT OF REACH TO 37
MILLION AMERICANS.**

**A BALANCE BETWEEN THE
ENVIRONMENT AND THE
ECONOMY MUST BE ACHIEVED.**

**TOO MANY OF OUR YOUTH
ARE THE PRODUCT OF BROKEN
HOMES, AND FIND THEMSELVES
AT RISK TO DRUGS, CRIME,**

**ILLITERACY, AND DROPPING OUT
OF SCHOOL.**

**AND, AS WE SAW RECENTLY
IN LOS ANGELES, WE STILL
HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO IN
THE SIMPLE TASK OF GETTING
ALONG WITH ONE ANOTHER.**

**THESE PROBLEMS HAVE LED
SOME TO CONCLUDE THAT
AMERICA'S BEST DAYS ARE**

OVER. IN FACT, ONE OF THE
MOST TALKED ABOUT BOOKS IN
WASHINGTON THESE DAYS IS
ONE CALLED "AMERICA--WHAT
WENT WRONG?"

AMERICA DOES HAVE
PROBLEMS. TOUGH PROBLEMS.
BUT THERE ARE MANY MORE
THINGS RIGHT ABOUT AMERICA

THAN THERE ARE WRONG
ABOUT HER.

DESPITE OUR PROBLEMS,
AMERICA IS STILL THE FREEST
AND MOST SUCCESSFUL NATION
ON EARTH. IN ALL MY YEARS IN
CONGRESS, I'VE HEARD FROM
LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF
KANSANS WHO WANTED HELP IN
GETTING SOMEONE...A

RELATIVE, A LOVED ONE...INTO
AMERICA. I'M STILL YET TO
HERE FROM ANYONE WHO
WANTS HELP IN LEAVING
AMERICA.

OUR FREE ENTERPRISE
SYSTEM HAS LONG BEEN THE
ENVY OF THE WORLD. WE HAVE
AN ABUNDANCE OF PRODUCTS
FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE.

**AND, AFTER A SLOW PERIOD,
OUR ECONOMY IS IMPROVING.
IN THE PAST FOUR MONTHS,
THE LABOR FORCE HAS JUMPED
BY MORE THAN 1.2 MILLION--THE
BEST RATE OF GROWTH IN
MORE THAN THREE YEARS.**

**IT IS AMERICANS WHO LEAD
THE WORLD IN SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL**

**ADVANCEMENTS...WHICH ARE
MAKING LIFE EASIER, AND
WHICH ARE CURING DISEASES.**

**IT IS AMERICANS WHO, IN THE
LAST TWENTY YEARS, HAVE
WON MORE NOBEL PRIZES IN
PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY,
MEDICINE, AND PHYSIOLOGY,
THAN ALL OTHER COUNTRIES IN
THE WORLD COMBINED.**

IT IS AMERICANS WHO PUT
MEN ON THE MOON AND
SATELLITES INTO SPACE--AND
WHO LAST WEEK SENT A REPAIR
CREW TO FIX A SATELLITE.

IT IS AMERICANS WHO
ALWAYS REACH OUT TO THOSE
IN NEED. EVERY TOWN IN
KANSAS AND EVERY CITY IN
AMERICA IS FULL OF

**VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS
HELPING THOSE IN NEED. AND
IF AN EARTHQUAKE ROCKS
ANOTHER COUNTRY, THEN
AMERICANS ARE THE FIRST TO
HELP.**

**IT IS AMERICA WHO OTHER
COUNTRIES TURN TO WHEN
FREEDOM IS ENDANGERED.
JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, I**

**ATTENDED THE FUNERALS OF
YOUNG KANSANS WHO LOST
THEIR LIFE IN THE PERSIAN
GULF. AS COUNTLESS OTHERS
BEFORE THEM, THEY MADE THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR
FREEDOM.**

**IT IS AMERICA THAT IS HOME
TO NINETY OF THE TOP ONE
HUNDRED INSTITUTIONS OF**

**HIGHER LEARNING IN THE
WORLD.**

**IT IS AMERICAN PRODUCTS
THAT ARE STILL THE ENVY OF
THE WORLD.**

**AND IT IS THE AMERICAN
FARMER WHO FEEDS THE
WORLD.**

**BUT AMERICA HAS
SUCCEEDED IN EXPORTING**

**MORE THAN JUST PRODUCTS
AND FOOD. WE HAVE ALSO
EXPORTED FREEDOM. AND
THAT JUST MIGHT BE THE BEST
NEWS OF ALL.**

**FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS,
GRADUATES WHO SAT WHERE
YOU DO KNOW, ENTERED A
WORLD THAT WAS DIVIDED BY
THE IRON CURTAIN. AND THE**

**CENTRAL DEBATE OF OUR TIME
WAS WHETHER COMMUNISM OR
DEMOCRACY WOULD SURVIVE.**

**TODAY, THAT DEBATE IS
OVER. AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
HAS WON A CONVINCING AND
OVERWHELMING VICTORY.**

**COMMUNISM HAS COLLAPSED
WORLDWIDE--A FAILED AND
FATAL PHILOSOPHY THAT WAS**

**REJECTED AS SOON AS PEOPLE
GOT ACCESS TO A BALLOT BOX.**

**SO, IN CONCLUSION, YES,
AMERICA HAS HER SHARE OF
PROBLEMS. BUT THE POINT I
AM MAKING IS THAT WE ARE
THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NATION
ON EARTH. AND THAT'S
BECAUSE WE ARE ALL PART OF
THE SOLUTION. EACH OF US**

**HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY
A ROLE IN SETTING AMERICA'S
COURSE FOR THE FUTURE.**

**EACH OF YOU HAS THE
POWER TO DECIDE HOW YOU
WILL BE PART OF THIS
EQUATION. EACH OF YOU WILL
MAKE THE DECISIONS ABOUT
WHAT ROADS YOU WILL TAKE IN
LIFE. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT**

**TELL YOU IF YOU CAN OR CAN
NOT GO TO COLLEGE.**

**GOVERNMENT DOES NOT TELL
YOU WHERE YOU WILL WORK OR
WHAT YOU'LL DO.**

**GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PLACE
ANY LIMITS ON YOUR DREAMS.**

**THOSE DECISIONS ARE UP TO
YOU.**

**ON THIS GRADUATION DAY, I
WISH THAT ALL YOUR
DECISIONS ARE THE RIGHT
ONES, AND ALL YOUR DREAMS
FOR THE FUTURE BECOME
REALITY.**