

Good morning, I am Dennis Murphy a fellow Chico State Graduate, Go Wildcats! I am humbled and grateful to be here today with you. I would like to thank President Gayle Hutchinson, Vice Provost Debra Larson and the Board of Trustees of California State University for selecting me for this Honorary Degree. I would also like to thank my mom and dad, I wouldn't be here without them, seriously, also my family and friends who are here today and my son Padraig, I appreciate you and love you all.

Well mom and dad, it took a while, but you finally got that Doctor you wanted in the family!

Many years ago, I sat in this very stadium on graduation day, filled with dreams, passion and drive to take all the gifts given to me at this amazing University and put them to work. Since that glorious day, I have learned many lessons and I would like to share a few of them with you.

- **You are enough** – each of you has what it takes to continue this great journey and capture the dreams ahead of you. Love yourself, trust yourself and have self respect.
- **Be thankful** – having gratitude is an amazing gift that allows you to realize that you are on this earth for a mighty purpose and only you, through self reflection and gratitude can understand your mighty purpose.
- **Be kind** – start off by being kind to yourself, that will allow you to genuinely be kind to others. Go out of your way to do something thoughtful for the people in and around your life.
- **Give as you go** – Make giving part of your fabric and everyday routine. I am not a big fan of the term “Giving Back”, it makes me

think “why the heck did you take so much in the first place if you have to stop and give back”. Give as you go.

I have dedicated my life to helping others and making a difference in this world. My personal mission statement is “To provide strong leadership and support with conviction so that the people and passions in my life can thrive.” I have discovered that my life is more fruitful because of the investments I have made in the human capital around me. When you find a good person or place, keep them close.

Chico State is a good place, so I have kept this place close, for good reasons. Whether you know it or not, you are going to take a little bit of Chico with you, and Chico will keep a little bit of you here, that is what makes this place so special. I made a commitment to myself that if I was ever in a position to help this great University, it would be my privilege to do so. You see, I was a materials lab tech when I was a student here, I did it to earn a little money and learn more about my classes. As a lab tech I would set up the experiments for the students to perform the next day, I noticed that the supplies and testing machines were old and needed updating, there simply were not funds available at that time and we did the best we could with what he had. After several trips back to visit after graduation, I noticed that the labs were in the exact same condition as when I graduated, I knew it was time to make the effort to update the materials lab, so I did just that. I am happy to report that the University took the lead, specifically Ahmad Boura, Vice President of University Advancement. We joined forces with CIM, together, we created a new materials lab for the College of Engineering, Construction Management and Computer Science. This was a huge win for everyone involved!

Chico State is a good place, keep it close and if you ever find yourself in a position to help, I would encourage you to do so, remember, give as you go.

Thank you for sharing part of this special and exciting day with me. You all have a lot to be proud of. This day is the beginning or the spark of opportunity for all of us. Let's take that spark and ignite something powerful and meaningful. Let's do some good in this world. I believe that there is no limit for the potential of a human. There is no limit on your future. Be true to yourself, be kind to others and SET NO LIMITS!

Thank you!