

Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Bradley Lane and I'm so proud to serve as the President at Seattle Central College.

It is truly an honor to be part of this Commencement, surrounded by nearly 1,000 graduates who have worked so hard to reach this milestone. I couldn't be prouder to celebrate your achievements with you today.

I am thinking of new chapters, for you and for me both. This marks the second Commencement address I have delivered. Last year, I spoke for the first time as the interim president of Seattle Central. This year, I am thrilled to be in a less temporary position -- staying as the president of a college that I could not be more proud to lead. Even though I have been at Seattle Colleges for 15 years, this feels like a new chapter for me too.

As for your new beginnings—you are in august company. As you get ready to step out into the world, you will join the ranks of over 500,000 alumni who have graduated since Seattle Central was founded in 1966. I urge you to use your talents and passions to advocate for justice, for equality, and for compassion.

It is impossible to ignore all of the global issues and social injustices that demand your attention -- and your action. From climate change to economic disparity to the rising attacks on our civil rights and our bodily autonomy – I imagine how hard it is to make sense of the world, and how easy it is to feel

overwhelmed. It is precisely in moments like these that your leadership and courage are needed the most.

Seattle Central graduates are change makers and leaders in their communities. My ask of you is to stand up for what is right in the face of adversity. Find your collective voice and amplify the voices of others who are going unheard. Champion causes that lead to a more just and equitable world. Each of you carries the potential to navigate the world with courage, integrity, and resolve. Now is the time to put it into action.

As you become alumni of Seattle Central, I urge each of you to imagine what your contributions to the world will be. Build bridges. Dismantle barriers. Uphold justice when others seek to withhold it. The world awaits your brilliance and your compassion. I can see the immense potential in every one of you, and I am so excited to see how you will shape the future, make a difference, and leave your mark on our community.

Wherever you go, stay in touch with us. Your success is our success, and I want to hear about your accomplishments, your challenges, and all the wonderful ways you are making a difference in the world.

Congratulations, Tigers!