

Hello and welcome.

First, I'd like to thank Liberty Mutual for sponsoring today's luncheon and making this event possible. Liberty Mutual was founded in 1912 so it has a birthday this year—the company is 100 years old.. So happy birthday, Liberty Mutual. And it is a fabulous corporate citizen. Liberty Mutual is the official sponsor of the Fourth of July fireworks celebration in Boston with the Boston Pops, and we're happy to have them with us here today. So, thank you, Liberty Mutual.

You know, I truly enjoy my job. I do. And I have so many opportunities to meet and talk to people. And I mean this sincerely when I say one of my favorites is welcoming the new, extraordinarily talented students like you all to Bentley University. This year we're welcoming 185 new undergraduate ALANA students and 33 transfer students. Welcome.

So...you're a little over halfway through your ALANA Experience weekend. I've seen your schedule, and I have one little piece of advice for you: Wear comfortable shoes. My goodness, you're busy.

But it's an important weekend for you. You're getting the lay of the land, so to speak. You're getting settled into what will be your home away from home for the next four years. And right now I want you to look around. Take a look at the people sitting at your table. And around the room.

(PAUSE)

All of these people care about you, and want to get to know you, and see you succeed. And they can't wait to see what you're going to do, what you're going to accomplish during your time here at Bentley. Get to know everyone. I urge you.

Get to know the staff in the Multicultural Center. By now you've met some of the staff. But I want you to make it a point to see them regularly throughout your four years here for academic, social, and networking possibilities. We have many services that directly address the needs of ALANA students. Use them. That's what they're here for.

Utilize your upperclassman. They were in your shoes not too long ago and know how you're feeling right now. Don't reinvent the wheel. Ask for help. Ask for advice. ALANA Leaders have been working hard for your arrival. They had such a positive experience that they became leaders to give back to the next class of scholars. Maybe next year, some of you will become ALANA Leaders, too.

I can't stress enough to get to know your professors. They're not scary people. And get to know them before you get stuck in class. Utilize their office hours early in the semester, so when you do get in a jam—and more than likely you will; I'm just saying—when you get into a jam, you already will have a relationship established with them. So much of business is relationships, and you're learning that starting today.

So make friends. Lots of friends. That is so important. You're here to learn about business, yes, but this is a time in your life when you should learning about yourself too. And you do that by meeting lots and lots of people and growing into that person you were meant to be.

You are a new generation. One who is being prepared to be the next generation of smart, nimble, compassionate business leaders. One with strong core business and critical thinking skills. One who is preparing to be successful in business *and* live a rewarding life.

So welcome. And enjoy. Don't ever forget to enjoy your time here. It's supposed to be fun. It's supposed to be hard, too. But it should always be fun.

Thank you.