

Class of 2022 Graduation Speech
Hannah Susaraba

Thank you, members of the board, President Elsner, Chancellor Heidt, Dr. Crossly, faculty, guests, and my fellow graduates.

Well graduates, we did it. Those two years of pulling all nighters, crying into textbooks, and fighting to stay awake in our most boring classes have paid off for this moment right here. Congratulations, but not just to you but to our families and professors. This is their day too. They watched us make questionable decisions where they were left shaking their heads, probably questioning how much faith they really had in us.

When I first graduated high school with my impressive C- average my last thought was to ever step foot into another school again. Well... surprise... here I am. I changed my mind when I realized that just because I am legally an adult doesn't mean I know what I want. So I went to a school that was close to me. After doing three semesters I was miserable. I had my cosmetology license from high school and did hair full time. One day as I was at work, I walked Kris Korcha, who I had no idea would change everything. We had the typical small talk and she told me she worked at Ancilla, and I asked more because I hated my other school. Well, I transferred, not even going to look at the school first because I thought, what was the worst that could happen.

Still, even being at a new school I had no idea what I wanted. I would stress myself out thinking you're 20, you need to figure out what you want. But if there is one thing my professors had taught me, it's that it's okay to not know, it's okay to not have a plan, and it's okay to explore the unknown.

While I have done my fair share of complaining while being here, I'll be the first to admit that I'm going to miss this place. I really can't thank Kris Korcha and Chris Fardulis for being my professors, you put the students first, you've had faith in me when I had none in myself, you've been my school family, you've taught me about life, and you guys always have snacks but most importantly Tammy Fardulis's cooking.

Thank you to all our amazing faculty here at Ancilla, this place wouldn't be the same without Jill Neidlinger's warm smile and always having the right thing to say. Dr. Williams cookies in his office when there is an exam, Kathy Larson telling everyone to have a good day, Chad Kebrdle and Joel Thomas bringing out the creative side of students, Dr. Buchanan with his many stories, and Michelle Bougher making sure that everyone has the same resources to succeed in each of their classes. Thank you to all of you for putting the students first, this school wouldn't be the same without you.

Now we are moving to our next stage of life – maybe it's a job or another school or who really knows, whatever the next adventure is it will be another puzzle piece of making us who we are, just like Marian University's Ancilla College was. As Dr. Buchanan would say, do what makes you happy.

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