

**OSU Commencement Opening Comments**  
**December 14, 2012**  
**Andy Lester**

Graduates, the Board of Regents of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges congratulates you on this truly momentous occasion. I have to tell you, this is my favorite day on the academic calendar. It celebrates the culmination of your hard work. And it marks the beginning – the commencement, if you will – of your new life with your newly earned diploma.

For the past several years, you have worked hard, looking forward to being right where you are now, wearing cap and gown, about to walk up here to receive your diploma. Well, you did it. You have successfully completed your course of instruction. We are thrilled to share this occasion with you.

Of course, you could not be here without the help a lot of other people. The old adage says no person is an island unto

himself or herself. Well, it's true. A lot of other people have been involved in making this day possible.

First, let me mention our faculty. Oklahoma State University is blessed with some of the best professors. This isn't something I say lightly. I know this, not merely because I serve as a regent, but because I have seen it for myself. My daughter, Susan Lester, is also graduating today from OSU, and I have seen up close how great faculty members have helped transform her life. And it's not simply that they have transmitted knowledge to her, though they certainly have done that. But they have also prodded her, challenged her, encouraged her and mentored her. That is what great professors do. Please join me in thanking our wonderful Oklahoma State University faculty.

Your family, friends and loved ones are also a huge part of this day. They have made sacrifices, financially and in many other ways, so that you could reach your goals. They have

supported you and your efforts. They have cheered your victories and helped you over the rough spots. Please join me in thanking the families and friends of our OSU graduating class.

This is indeed a wonderful day. On behalf of the Board of Regents – Congratulations!