

Valedictorian Speech

by Liv Brock

Good morning, faculty, friends, family, fellow graduates, and returning alumni. My name is Liv, and I am honored to speak to you all today. These last few years I have spent with you all have been some of the most enriching years of my life, I think that most of us can agree that the people that we have met the lessons we have learned, and the challenges and triumphs we have all faced through our time here at this fine university have and will continue to shape how we see the world and who we will become in it. I am so grateful to be representing this year's class of amazing graduates. My experience with this university has given me the confidence to become the person I want to be in this world. Coming to this university has been like a dream come true for me. The community-building skills I have gained here have enabled me with a sense of a newly found determination. To make the change, I want to see in the world a reality, and with the help of my peers, I believe that change like that can be made. It is time to stop waiting for someone else to save us. It is time for all of us, this year's class of graduates, to make our voices heard and fight for the change we want to see in the world. Someday soon, we all will surely be looking back at this chapter of our lives with great pride and a sense of accomplishment as we all turn this page in our lives and start a new chapter. I urge you to remember the community that you have built here at this university. In the words of Malcolm X, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." In these harsh times of lies, violence, and uncertainty, finding community in those you trust is more important than ever before. Because community is what will pull us through these harsh times. To quote the great

civil rights activist John Lewis, I hope that we all leave here today and “get in Good Trouble” to fight for what we believe in.

I believe that it is very important for all of us to leave here with a plan of action on how we plan to save our world some of you may want to make an impact by becoming a doctor or a scientist an engineer a politician a writer an artist or something else but whatever it is you chose give it all you have got. Find a way to make a stand and express yourself in your chosen field. Our planet is in danger of internal and external collapse, and we must do something to heal these wounds before they are infected any further. As you go out into the world, please do not forget the sacrifices that were made for you to be here because someday soon, you too will be making sacrifices for future generations. Be the shoulders that lift someone else up just as someone was the shoulders that lifted you up. Congratulations, and thank you so much for letting me speak to you all today.