

WELCOME INCOMING BOILERMAKERS

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT DANIELS

Thank you all for the warm welcome. As Jen mentioned, I'm Mitch Daniels, President of Purdue University. This is an honor I still find very difficult to express in words. So first, welcome to Mackey Arena! If you think the atmosphere is electric in here today, just wait until you arrive for one of our Men's Basketball Games this winter. The hype and energy coming from *The Paint Crew* is absolutely unbelievable!

Now, as I stand before you today, looking out at all of your faces, I'm reminded of the first time I was privileged enough to step foot on the storied campus of Purdue University. It was a time of great excitement for what I was about to become a part of, as well as a bit of anxious anticipation of how I could positively contribute to the expectations of this institution and how it would in return, shape me.

I would argue there is no richer history—don't let those other nearby universities try to tell you otherwise—not naming any names—and no greater opportunity than the one you are about to embark on; and from my vantage point, there is no better place in the world to do so. Many incredible alumni have charted this course; they are astronauts, engineers, actors, professional athletes, communicators, change-makers. And some are even seated before me in the form of your parents. Who knew, right?

The challenge that lies before you today is not whether you are able to complete the coursework, or how you will make your way through campus life. We already know you to be capable. You were selected to be part of the Boilermaker family because you have demonstrated your worthiness to enter these ranks as some of the best and brightest the world over. Some of you have travelled great distances to be with us. We have students from all 50 states and more than 135 countries all over the world. Still others have followed paths of adversity and resilience to land at Purdue University. Whatever your unique story, one thing is certain: Purdue is here with you, helping you to write the story of what's next on that journey. Make it one to be proud of. Make it your own.

The challenge I'm laying before you, is how far will your next giant leap be? *Make it your mission* to get involved, spread your wings, and become actively engaged in all Purdue has to offer. John C. Maxwell once outlined 7 steps for success, and to me, these will never ring truer than the very place where each of find yourselves on our campus today. Challenge yourself to apply them to your time with us.

Step 1: Make a commitment to grow daily. Purdue offers opportunities to push you out of your comfort zone. Grow through it.

Step 2: Value the process more than events. If it were easy, everyone would do it. Understand the grind and how it will polish and sharpen you.

Step 3: Don't wait for inspiration. Boilermakers don't sit back and wait. They get after it. Make the most of what is being offered. Seek out and inspire others.

Step 4: Be willing to sacrifice pleasure for opportunity. Put in the work. Plain and simple.

Step 5: Dream big. There is no dream too big, no goal you cannot achieve.

Step 6: Plan your priorities. College life offers so much, and there are so many ways to become involved. Part of your challenge is to remain disciplined and focused—but don't forget to have fun along the way.

Step 7: Give up to go up. Look at your time here as a launchpad to your next big leap. Soak up all of the chances to develop into the very best version of yourself. I promise you will not regret it.

With that, before I introduce our next speaker—who is incredible, by the way—Beth McCuskey, our Vice Provost of Student Life. She's been black and gold with us for the past 13 years, and she's tasked this weekend with leading the charge to get all of you acquainted with our beautiful campus and interacting with each of you as you settle in and get to know your boilermaker family.

But first: I'm asking you all to do me a small favor. When you walk back out these doors and head back to your dorms and all of the exciting events we have planned for you these next few days, take a quick moment and stop by my buddy Pete. He's right outside, on your way over to Ross-Ade, where we'll have some fun a little later on trying to break a few Guinness Records. Purdue Pete serves as a symbol of the steadfast perseverance, hard work, tenacity and—most importantly—the grit that comes with being able to confidently say: I am a Boilermaker.

I AM A BOILERMAKER. (Encourage all to say it together). I AM A BOILERMAKER. I AM A BOILERMAKER!

We are here for you and with you. Let's get after it. Please warmly welcome my dear friend Beth. BOILER UP!
