

Dr. Khan-Bureau's 2021 Commencement Speech

Greetings students, faculty, staff, and distinguished guests. Today is a very special day for all of us. Nonetheless, it's been one the most challenging years that many faculty, staff, and students have experienced on a personal and economic level. And although this year has been difficult, we are here to celebrate the accomplishments of our students.

What helped us through this difficult time? Hope, friendship, family, strength, and education among other things. Education allows us to ask questions and to seek knowledge. It was strikingly clear that the need for higher education during this pandemic and past political year was vital. Because of the lack of understanding and transparency societal stressors, fear, and confusion persisted. Seeking answers, listening, asking questions, observing, applying rigorous criticism, and acquiring knowledge was crucial. It is through this process that we learn. We call this the Scientific Method. It's through the Scientific Method that we acquire information and come to a better understanding as a society about the world we live in. The truth is the truth and having quantifiable evidence and data can help provide a clear answer to our questions no matter what the opinion of others are on the subject.

I must acknowledge how proud I am of my colleagues and our students. We were all thrown into the depth of learning acronyms from LRON to HYBRID to ONLINE and had to learn several platforms to perform our teaching duties and for students, fulfillment of course work. It was difficult, but we did what we had to do. The faculty stepped up to meet the challenge. Why? It is and has always been our mission to give our students a college experience and education that will help them succeed in their endeavors to succeed in the contributing to society and the environment. The Scientific Method is the best place to start if you want to know the truth.

Keep seeking the truth. Keep seeking evidence-based answers. Keep asking questions. Be a responsible learner and seek the truth. And while we're at it, be thoughtful and kind to each other. On behalf of the Faculty Senate and Three Rivers Community College we wish you, our 2021 graduating students, the best of luck and success. Congratulations.