



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 6 and 7, 2016

Convocation Address
By Dr. Tamara Vrooman

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Tamara Vrooman during the Beedie School of Business and Faculty of Science ceremony on Friday, October 7, 2016. The following is Dr. Vrooman's Convocation address:

Good morning. Thank you very much. It's indeed an honour to be here today.

Madame Chancellor, Mr. President, Members of the Board of Governors, Senate, Faculty, honoured guests and most of all graduates. Good morning. Thank you for this great opportunity to address the graduating class of 2016. It's a privilege to be here with you. I am honored to be recognized by this university in particular. I have found Simon Fraser University to be unfailingly thoughtful, collegial - and yes, even engaged - and clearly built on a foundation of shared values and respect. I hope these values have been a key part of your education and your experience here.

What I would like to talk to you about today, is the pressing need to take the culture of deliberately listening and engaging beyond the halls of Simon Fraser University and with you into the working world. Because your education not only will create opportunity for you - but also needs to create opportunity for the communities in which you will live and work.

And I encourage you to use *every* tool at your disposal to achieve this.

I'd like to start by asking you a question. What did most of you do right after you got up this morning? Before your coffee? Before your breakfast? Before you even opened the newspaper - oh, that's probably the wrong generation, isn't it?

For most of you, I'm guessing that you reached for your phone. Maybe you scanned the headlines. Maybe you checked Twitter or Facebook. Being graduation day, I hope some of you texted your mom.

In this room, surrounded by your friends and family you can almost feel your energy and excitement as you get ready to cross the stage. I'm inspired by that energy and the passion that I know you will bring to your future work. I cannot wait to see what you will do.

Congratulations and thank you.