

\$V ZH OHDYH WKH FRPIRUWV RI FROOHJH ZH HQWH

responsibilities that come with being a productive member of society are huge.

(DFK RI XV KDV WR JR RXW DQG DV *DQGKL VDLG ZRUOG /HZLV ZLWK LWV &DWKROLF DQG /DVDOO

business people, teachers, police officers, psychologists, scientists, scholars, and individuals, to make a difference.

As a combined special and elementary education major, I will strive to be a transformative educator and an advocate for social justice for every individual I encounter. Even though I have this strong desire, it scares me. I wish that once you graduated college everything was easy, but, as we all know, it is not. In order to grow and move forward in life, we need to continually push ourselves past what is comfortable.

How often in our life are we willing to step out of our comfort zones though? What does it even mean? Well, for some of us, stepping outside our comfort zone may mean having the courage to take a job that has less pay and tougher demands, but

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each of us here today, graduating or not, to think about how we can push beyond z
in our own life. We should be proud of our accomplishments like Conrad was for
knowing A to Z, but we should ~~also~~ always be searching how we can push past z
and go on beyond zebra.

Pushing past our comfort zone, going beyond z, is something personal and very
different for each and every one of us. While at Lewis, it was Dr. Laura Sloan who
pushed me past z. I kne

May our faith inspire us each day to stretch out to others, to reach beyond the status quo, to help make the world a better place, to accept diversity, to serve the poor, to fight for access to affordable education and for justice, to constantly learn more, to exceed normal expectations as far as our faith, love, and imaginations will allow.

Congratulations and go on beyond z.