Commencement Ceremony
Dec. 13, 2014

To the families and graduates, congratulations.

Congratulations on completing your course requirements. You now join a small group of people -- those that call themselves “college graduates.” That distinction is important because society places a great value in your success as a college graduate. Society has invested in you and your education with the hope you will do all you can do to better this world. You carry this responsibility, this duty, and this obligation. You do not need to be amazing; nor do you need to be great. You just have to genuinely care - and own the trust society has in you. The trust we have in you. The trust I have in you.

Black Hills State University is a special place where anything is possible.

As a B-H graduate, inspire us. Inspire us through your words, your actions, your work, your family, and your dreams.

As a B-H graduate, engage us. Engage us through your faith, your integrity, your commitment to others, and your involvement in the community.

As a B-H graduate, be innovative. Be innovative through your sincere efforts, your openness to ideas, and through just trying.

Lastly, as a B-H graduate, imagine. Imagine a world that is safe. Imagine a world that is free from ailments and poverty -- and is filled with hope and kindness.

Graduates (alums) you represent the absolute best BHSU has to offer. We are proud of you and so hopeful for your continued success. Again, congratulations and never, ever forget your alma mater -- Black Hills State University.

- President Tom Jackson, Jr.