

Good morning. My name is Meghan Kennedy and I represent the students graduating today in the early childhood education program. During one of my practicum experiences, I noticed a set of rules on the wall of a kindergarten classroom. It simply read, "Be kind. Be Responsible. Be Positive." As educators of young children, we try our best to teach children valuable life lessons that will help them succeed. We play a significant role in molding the future of young children. We provide them with the tools and experiences to make meaning of the world around them. I can say with confidence that all of us here possess the abilities and talents to paint a bright future for so many young children. Through JMU's program, we've been given the opportunity to work with children from a variety of backgrounds and ability levels, allowing us to grow into the confident and passionate educators we are today. We've all had those moments, whether it be listening to a below grade-level reader complete his first book, or finding a more effective approach for a student who's just not getting it. Those are the moments you realize, "this is what I want to do for the rest of my life." Those are the moments you realize that your job is your vocation. Our experiences at JMU in the classroom and during practicum taught us that we can make a difference in a child's life and give each child the guidance and support needed to succeed. As we transition from JMU to the real world, it's important to remember those rules we learned in kindergarten. Be kind. Be responsible. Be positive. And now I would like to present the students graduating today from the early childhood education program.