



Admitted Students – Celebration Day

April, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Good morning and welcome to John Carroll University and to our Class of 2015 Celebration.

It is gratifying for me to hear how many of you have already made the decision to join us. Of course, you have made a very good choice. I hope that through the course of the day, the remainder of you will see what you need to see to make your decision to call John Carroll your home for the next four years.

Vice President Williams articulated why today is called a Celebration. I'd like to comment further on the importance of why we call you "the Class of 2015."

Many colleges and universities might call you "the freshman class of 2011." It is an easy way to signify that you all will START college at the same time. Yet, at John Carroll, we call you the Class of 2015 with confidence because we know you will likely FINISH at the same time. Graduating in FOUR YEARS will be the reality for nearly all of you in this room. Not five. Not six. But FOUR years.

In four years, you will be well-prepared for an increasingly global, complex, and demanding world. We support that statement with graduation rates that are among the best in the country (we have the overall seventh best four-year graduate rate in Ohio; and our four-year graduation rate is much higher than the six year graduation at many public universities in the state).

The John Carroll experience is designed and cared for by faculty and staff committed to the shared goal of helping all students succeed.

Today I imagine much of your focus will be on yourself and your needs - majors, careers, housing options, how the food is. That is understandable and those things matter in your college selection. But a main point that I hope you leave with today is this: through your four years at John Carroll, we will constantly push you to think beyond yourself. You will learn to ask, "where are my gifts most needed?" "How can I make the most difference in my life and the lives of others?"

These are deeper questions that can't be fully answered on a Saturday morning. The John Carroll experience is about more than just a degree. There are many institutions where you can easily get a degree. Some try to do it in three years, others, perhaps, will do it for less overall tuition than John Carroll charges.

If your focus is purely on acquiring a credential, then you can do that just about anywhere at a cost that varies greatly.

But if your focus is to earn a degree that not only gives you skills for your first job, but *knowledge* that will prepare you for life, then John Carroll is the place for you.

If you want to learn how to be successful not only in your career, but in your community and by truly engaging the world, then John Carroll is the place for you.

We have an excellent reputation at this University that was built on generations of John Carroll students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends over 125 years. Therefore, a John Carroll credential really means something.

For employers, a John Carroll degree on your resume means that you are most likely a person of knowledge, character, and integrity. They know you are a leader and that you are likely to lead the right way—the *ethical* way. They will know that you aren't afraid of hard work, and that you have the spiritual strength and drive to get things done.

This is why organizations from the big accounting firms to the Cleveland Clinic practically ask us to send them more and more interns and graduates each year—which is not a bad problem for us to have.

So the essence of a Jesuit education and what we are trying to do at John Carroll is to challenge you to think beyond yourself.

Our core values as a university emphasize developing the whole person, and the importance of sharing our gifts with one another. Our Jesuit and Catholic tradition requires nothing less of us, our God asks the same.

IN CLOSING, I want to thank you for being here today and for believing in John Carroll strongly enough to consider joining us. You will find ways to challenge us and in so doing, make us a better university.

It is easy to be a proud president and brag about our successes. And there is much more for us to celebrate today. But rather than tell you more about it, I encourage you to meet many of the people of our community today. As you cross our campus you will interact with hundreds of student volunteers and interact with over 100 faculty and staff. They are all here to help you make your decision OR to celebrate the decision that you have already made. You will see a community of inclusion -- a place where people of different backgrounds and experiences interact. A place where we strive to learn from each other continuously in mutual respect and collaboration.

I sincerely appreciate the commitment that your family makes to be a part of the John Carroll community; You can be a Carroll success too. Thank you for being with us today.

God bless.