9-18-1972

Comments at GVSC Convocation of Faculty and Staff, delivered on September 18, 1972

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Recommended Citation
Lubbers, Arend D., "Comments at GVSC Convocation of Faculty and Staff, delivered on September 18, 1972" (1972). Presidential Speeches. 20.
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COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AREND D. LUBBERS
AT GVSC CONVOCATION OF FACULTY AND STAFF
SEPTEMBER 18, 1972

To the new members of our community, I extend special greetings. Whether you give Grand Valley and its students a significant part of your career or whether you plan to be here a short period of time, I hope you will find this campus a place where professional development flourishes, and personal development is uninhibited by pettiness and smallness of mind.

At GVSC, we have cause for some gratitude. In a year when many institutions, both public and private, are forced to retrench, our growth has permitted a 42% increase in the State's appropriation and with that an opportunity to improve and develop programs. One can never accurately predict the future but for now, for this year, we should have the tools with which to carry on our work. I am the first to admit we have many needs. This year's resources will not allow us to meet nearly those that we want, but, hopefully, we can make progress.

In the next weeks, I will share with each college my hopes and thoughts for the future of each. Today, we will hear from the deans and learn what is happening. Our unique structure is having an effect. Students are interested in what we are doing here. The faculty of each college has charted an educational course somewhat different from that in the other colleges. Though some of you may differ, I believe we are offering three viable approaches to education, and
a year from now a fourth will be added. While College Four will prepare for a grand opening next fall, we must turn our thoughts towards still another college with another track for learning. Last year I mentioned the possibility of establishing a new college patterned after St. John's College in Annapolis and Santa Fe. In November, I plan to visit Professor Wasserman who is on leave and working at St. John's. I hope to spend a few days with the president and faculty in Annapolis. Upon my return, I will share my impressions with you and we will decide how to proceed.

My expectations for this year are high. I suppose that is usual, but there is a reason. Our three colleges are established. CAS and TJC have claimed an identity and WJC is through the first taxing year of beginning, a year in which the faculty gave of themselves to the extent that their example elicited admiration and respect for themselves and the profession they practice. The growth in CAS has been rapid and large. I realize the resulting dislocations can be traumatic, but the faculty and staff have done well in keeping their college moving and improving. TJC was the college that could never survive in a state educational structure. The faculty and students are an excellent survival team. They not only survive, but thrive as well. I guess my expectations are high because I believe we as colleagues have a slightly more mature institution.

The major problem facing us, as it is everyone in higher education, is the matter of working constructively in an area of society that is under critical scrutiny, more so than in the recent past. The leveling off of student enrollment
at a time when there are many professors in the marketplace exacerbates the situation. This is happening when many institutions are so large that dehumanizing factors dominate the way people attempt to communicate with one another in them. Can we as colleagues at GVSC find ways of talking with one another, perceiving one another, affecting one another, so that we all really have a purposeful share in the life of this institution? Can the resources be divided so everyone believes that his interests have a fair hearing? Unless we can, we will be spending an inordinate amount of time deciding who gets what, and how one group or person relates to other groups or persons. The year will be interesting to see what it brings in the area of human relations.