

12-6-1997

## Remarks, delivered at Commencement on December 6, 1997

Arend D. Lubbers  
*Grand Valley State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential\\_speeches](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches)



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#), [Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

---

### ScholarWorks Citation

Lubbers, Arend D., "Remarks, delivered at Commencement on December 6, 1997" (1997). *Presidential Speeches*. 124.

[https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential\\_speeches/124](https://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/presidential_speeches/124)

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at ScholarWorks@GVSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Presidential Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@GVSU. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@gvsu.edu](mailto:scholarworks@gvsu.edu).

## **COMMENCEDMENT**

**DECEMBER 6, 1997**

### **REMARKS: PRESIDENT LUBBERS**

We have established a tradition at Grand Valley. We invite an alumna or an alumnus to address the graduates at the winter commencement. I think it is one of our better traditions. For you to see and hear someone who has graduated from our University who has established herself professionally should give you hope. It demonstrates success originating in part from a Grand Valley degree. This morning we have invited a graduate from Grand Valley's first class – the class of 1967 Annie Comor-Jacobs. Ms. Jacobs chose the field of education. After graduating she began her teaching career in Ohio, first in Columbus and then in Cincinnati, where she taught English to high school students until 1973.

Her career shifted dramatically when she began her work at Wayne County Community College in 1978. She continued to teach in math, English, and psychology, but she was asked to provide leadership for total programs in those fields. Increased leadership responsibilities showed what a capable administrator she was becoming. Anyone familiar with Wayne County Community College and its problems in her first years there will appreciate even more her personal and leadership qualities. For she survived and participated in bringing her institution through some difficult times while others failed and left. Her steadiness, fairness,

## COMMENCEMENT

December 6, 1997

### WELCOME

British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli said, "The secret to success is constancy to purpose." You prove him right today. For you the graduates have pursued a course demanding of many personal qualities, not the least being constancy in the pursuit of your objective – a degree from Grand Valley.

Welcome to all families and friends of the graduates. You have reason, along with them, to take double enjoyment in this holiday season. For added to the traditional joys of this season are the achievement of a major professional goal and the relief from college bills, particularly appreciated at Christmas time.

As we ~~graduate~~ confer degrees it is appropriate as well to recognize those who make those degrees possible. It is the Faculty who ultimately determine the quality of the university, and we recognize four of them today, one of whom was tragically taken from us.

and intelligence provided her the opportunity to lead the eastern campus of Wayne County Community College in 1993 when she became Provost of that campus. She serves in that position today.

There is another part of the Annie Comor-Jacobs story and Grand Valley. I first met her when she was here with her daughter. Her love and respect for her alma mater led her to encourage her daughter Therese to attend our University where she also graduated. An alumna could show no greater honor than to send her own to her college. Provost Jacobs has also been honored by Grand Valley as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.