

Hi there,

My name is Donna Kotsopoulos, and I am proud to serve as the Dean of the Faculty of Education.

I want to thank everyone who joined us to celebrate the hard work and outstanding achievements of our Doctor of Education graduates. To our graduates: you are a tremendous source of pride for our Faculty and we are so grateful that you allowed us to contribute to your incredible journeys.



Some of you are fulfilling a lifelong dream, while others may have never thought of engaging in a doctoral program until a few years ago. Some of you know what's next, while others may be keeping an open mind and taking a well-deserved break. Regardless of where you've been or where you'll go, you all share a common dedication to education, leadership and improving the world around us.

It is through that dedication that you were able to persevere and obtain a doctoral degree, despite all the challenges you faced. Some of you juggled full-time careers, parenting duties, and the countless other obstacles that life throws your way, all while committing yourselves to a highly involved and highly transformative multi-year journey. It's a journey I'm familiar with, which is why convocation has always been an emotional day for me. While most of you know me as the Dean, it wasn't too long ago that I was the teacher, then the master's student, and then the PhD candidate. I know what this journey requires, and I know it will be all worth it.

You are all shining examples of what the Faculty of Education has to offer, and it is people like you who make our dream of transforming education and transforming lives a reality. The world is truly a better place with you in it and I am so excited to witness your lasting impact.

I hope it's clear that the Faculty of Education is now your second home. The moment you crossed that stage at Alumni Hall, you joined more than 43,000 people from all over the world who are proud to call themselves members of the Faculty of Education Alumni Family. And as with any family, we do hope you'll stay in touch. We look after our own at this Faculty and are always working to honour the legacies of those who graduated from here.

Next year, we'll launch our 50th anniversary campaign as we reflect on cherished memories from the past five decades and celebrate our golden anniversary with a variety of events. We'll also be celebrating our Education pioneers, who graduated as teachers from Western before our Faculty was established in 1974. If you haven't already, please keep your email address up to date so we can let you know our full schedule. We hope to see you there.

I want to encourage you to always consider paying it forward. As alumni, you play a crucial role in ensuring the success of the next generation of our graduates. It is through the vital support of our alumni and generous donors, that we are able to ensure a brighter future for all educators. I would also ask that you consider your legacy and how you would like to see it carried forward at our Faculty. We are always happy to connect on making a difference together.

Please take time to relish in your achievements and know that we are so deeply proud of you. Congratulations.