

BSW Graduation Celebration

Greetings from

Dr. William Morgan,

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Hello and greetings to you all. President Schwartz, Provost Saunders, and Dean Sadlek all wish to extend their warm greetings to you, and their sincere congratulations on the successful completion of your undergraduate degrees. It is my pleasure to be here tonight and represent them to you. Let me share our hope that you will all shortly find productive employment and meaningful careers, despite these troubled economic times. I like to think the glass is really half full, and that this indeed is a new era of opportunity for you.

Let me remind you that, before President Obama entered politics, he made a very important career decision. He decided to leave his well-paid Wall Street law position in order to become a community organizer in the economically-depressed Chicago Southside. It was there that his talent and concern for social justice were clearly recognized and he was persuaded to run for office.

Although he never earned a social work degree, I think we can safely say President Obama is indeed one of our premier social workers. He also was deeply influenced by the neighborhood leaders and the professionally trained organizer he worked with. You can be proud that you share in his passion for social justice, and that you have received the training that will permit you to act on your principles.

The Cleveland State Social Work community will always be your home; I hope you will return to it often when you need support, and when you are ready to offer support to others.