

The University of Toledo  
Spring Commencement 2015  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m.

## **Mr. Keith Faber**

Highlights of Mr. Faber's accomplishments:

- Represents the 12th State Senate District in western Ohio, encompassing all of Allen, Champaign, Mercer, and Shelby counties, as well as portions of Auglaize, Darke and Logan counties.
- Currently serving as the 94th President of the Ohio Senate (2013-15).
- Prior to his election to the Senate, he served three terms in the Ohio House of Representatives (2001-06).
- Mr. Faber is the principal partner with Faber and Associates in Celina, OH- a law firm specializing in civil litigation and mediation.
- He earned his B.S. in Public Administration/Policy with honors from Oakland University (MI) in 1988 and

President Naganathan, Chairman Zerbey, members of the Board of Trustees...

Parents, families, and graduates...

My heartfelt congratulations on this important accomplishment

I am honored to join you today for one of the biggest and most significant moments of your entire life.

I assure you there are many more to come.

I have crossed a stage much like this one three times.

They were all beautiful days. My family was there. I will never forget walking across the stage and receiving my diploma.

But there are two things I don't remember about any of those days...

The Commencement Speaker was, and anything they had to say.

I am sure today will be no different for you!

So I'm not going to stand up here and give you a long speech. I know your minds are on a lot of other things right now, and I am one of few people standing between you and getting the heck out of school.

So I know when to keep it brief.

There is a famous line from the noted philosopher of the 1980's, a guy named Ferris Bueller. I'm not sure if any of you know who he is. Ferris Bueller famously said: "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Today is a day to stop and look around.

This is a moment you will remember for the rest of your life.

It is both the end of a long journey and the beginning of a new chapter.

Hopefully, you sit here today with big dreams and lofty goals – with the belief that, if you try hard enough, you can do something to change the world.

I know because my story isn't much different from many of yours.

I am the youngest of four brothers and sisters.

My mom and dad divorced when I was six.

Mom was a nurse.

My mom did the best she could raising us as a single parent.

I can remember mom working overtime so us kids could have nice birthday and Christmas presents.

We understood the value of hard work, and we were always encouraged to do what we could to help out.

I mowed lawns and shoveled snow before I was even a teenager.

I remember my first paycheck job when I started part-time as a janitor for Culligan water conditioning at age 12.

I remember riding my moped to work to clean toilets and sweep the floors.

I got to interact with the other workers and noticed the sales people who worked on commission and got paid more depending on how hard they worked. That stuck with me.

From there, I went to help open a pizza shop at age 15 for a couple who were trying to be entrepreneurs and risking their house to start a new business.

I saw both their commitment and their concerns every day as they counted the proceeds to see if they were going to make it or not.

Again, I witnessed and learned the value of hard work.

When I turned 16, I was able to work for an American Icon - McDonald's

Let me tell you, we are laser-focused on growing jobs and the economy in our state – and keeping people like you right here in Ohio to help us make it happen.

In order for our state to be successful in those areas, we need a well-educated workforce.

The Governor has said, I think all of us what agree, that “a higher education system that is working and is effective can be one of the greatest assets that the state has, because what companies care about is the quality of the workforce.”

We expect you to be a big part of the future of this state.

Some of you are getting your undergraduate degree here today and have plans to continue your college career.

Others of you will take the degree you’ve earned here and enter the workforce.

For others, this isn’t the first time you walked across



Maybe it's a friend or teacher who helped push you to the finish line. Tell them thanks.

And, most importantly, make sure you go out from here today and make them proud.

Thank you again for inviting me to share this special moment in your life. May God bless you in your future endeavors. And may you make the University of Toledo and all of Ohio proud with what you do with the rest of your life.

Thank you.