

Heidelberg Fall 2016 Opening Convocation

President's Remarks

25 August 2016

Good morning. All of you looked *HYPED and Happy* getting off those eight buses from Hocking Hills on Monday night. Congratulations!

Welcome to all of our new first-year students and transfer students. I hope that you had a fabulous summer of relaxing, traveling, working, reading, packing and fun. Thank you very much for choosing Heidelberg University for your college education.

We are beginning our 167th year of educating young women and men in the great tradition and advancement of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and in professional education. That is what we do. Our focus is on your *Education Excellence* and your *Student Success*. That is what we care about. We want you to succeed academically and in all other ways here. We want you to be ready to succeed in your internships, service roles, jobs, graduate schools, careers, and rich paths of distinctive lives.

To all of our upper class students, we are sincerely grateful for your continuing choice to attend this historic institution. We do not take your decisions for granted. It is very exciting that 77% of our freshmen from last year returned as sophomores this fall. I appreciate the leadership of our upper class students in this Opening Convocation today. Thank you!

To all of our great returning and new Faculty and Staff who bring their dedicated talent and passionate commitment to Heidelberg every day, we are grateful. Our shared purpose together is to strengthen the educational value of Heidelberg for all students. Thank you!

Our guest speaker this morning is the Honorable Mayor of Tiffin, Ohio Mr. Aaron D. Montz, who will be introduced momentarily. Mayor Montz is a 2008 graduate of Heidelberg and was featured in the A-T's *People with Passion* magazine a week ago. Given his great success as our second-term mayor, it appears that he has used his History and Political Science double major prudently.

One of our new students is a self-trained musician from Arizona who plays five instruments and plans to study Natural Sciences and Pre-Vet. Another student will be commuting nearly an hour each day from home to discover their academic passions and career interests.

We have incoming students from 19 states, including 30 from Michigan. And we are honored to welcome students from Mexico, Libya, Taiwan, China and Germany. Wonderful!

So to all new students, please follow the strong advice of Provost Schwartz. Get engaged. Make choices. Be intentional. Take full advantage of your exciting curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular opportunities here. Our campus has a warm and friendly spirit where students and their professors

The second book is *The Federalist Papers* (1787-1788) by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay. These 85 essays were written anonymously (by these three men) to promote the ratification of the newly crafted United States Constitution. I suggest Papers #1 and #70 by Hamilt