President Wendy B. Libby Remarks
COMMENCEMENT CHARGE
May 2015
Stetson University

Welcome and congratulations, Class of 2015! You've made it to the end of a remarkable journey, and today you join the Stetson Alumni Network. You officially 'become alums': part of an enduring community, kind of a 'Stetson in the Cloud' once you leave campus – a downloadable resource at your fingertips, whether you are looking for career advice and support or to connect with Hatters in cities across the world.

At the core of our values at Stetson is this notion of Personal and Social Responsibility. Let me take a few minutes to explore five aspects of that idea.

- First, Responsibility is all about strengthening COMMUNITY. Working toward something bigger than all of us and doing your

part, which in the end benefits individuals as well as the whole. Jump in with both feet, roll up your sleeves, work with your neighbors and build something you can all be proud of. *Invest in* your community. This is your world and we are all neighbors, breathing the same oxygen, sharing the same space and trying to make our corners of the world a bit better than they were before.

- Second, Responsibility is about ACTION. About making things happen. Move forward, full throttle. Go ahead! Proceed 'til apprehended even. But hang on and don't miss the important things that can derail you and send you reeling directionless into the ether. Make sure your compass is sure and true. Only then should you charge forth.

- Third, Personal and Social Responsibility is about being STRATEGIC and remembering to LOOK UP. For two reasons, really. One, because you should take the long view, with the goal of

being at least two steps ahead of everyone else. And two, Look Up because you should enjoy the scenery! Remember why you are on this path through life. It is not always linear – and *that itself can be beautiful.*

- Four, PASSION. Our sense of responsibility increases with passion – we are most attentive to that which we care about. And I wish for you that you *follow your passion*. A passion that channels your strengths and fuels your days. A passion that unites you with others. But in doing so, remember that passion can have a narrow PERSPECTIVE. Keep an open mind. There is more than one way, more than just your path. *Walk another's path*.

- Lastly, Personal and Social Responsibility is about PROFESSIONALISM. After all, the whole point is to rise up, to evolve, *to get to a better place as individuals and a society*. Responsibility is about patience and time, and doing what you say

you will do.

So. Take a breath and embrace what is both certain and uncertain. You are a Hatter after all, and these are truths you have experienced; you will draw upon them throughout your life.

Remember the value of the Stetson network in the years ahead. Come back to Stetson. Connect with a student. Extend a hand when they're looking for an internship, a job. Pay it forward. There are Stetson alumni behind you. And Stetson alumni before you – reach out to them. You are all on this path toward significance. And may Personal and Social Responsibility light your path to being a true citizen of the world.

May Hatter accomplishments across the years both inspire and motivate you. Take your place in history! Congratulations, Class of 2015 and Godspeed!