



New Student Orientation - Welcome

Robert Sabbatini, Dean of Students

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I am so excited to welcome you today, our class of 2023! With you comes a breath of new hope and excitement for your next few years here at Hampden-Sydney College.

As I was reflecting upon today, I wondered “What can I say in a few short sentences that will make an impact on these young men?” You know the expectations of greatness and integrity placed upon you or you wouldn't be sitting here today, ready to embark on your journey at H-SC. You've heard the stories of brotherhood, becoming family, success, and memories made to last a lifetime.

Success. The word that stood out to me. Success—a concept that is individually and collectively defined. I want to talk to you about how to define your success from this day forward.

Albert Einstein said, “Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.” As I contemplated that quote, I realized that value and success are only separated by one's own definition of the words. I believe that if each of you pledge to measure your success based on your value—your contributions, relationships, leadership, integrity, determination—you will have no other option than success.

I challenge you to strive to be invaluable in every facet of your life here at our great college.

Be invaluable to your classrooms—be prepared, lead discussion, be present in every way. Show each and every one of your professors that you are key in the success of your class. I promise, if you strive every day to be a crucial component, you will not fail. And I see a sea of 4.0 faces here today.

Be invaluable to your brothers. Show yourself accountable, responsible, accepting, yet determined to always maintain integrity in every situation. Be a vital component to your community's success. Always—always do the right thing, take responsibility for your actions and expect others to do the same.

Whatever you choose to become involved in here, be invaluable. Strive to become the kind of man with a legacy of hard work, determination, character and good will. An irreplaceable block in the foundation of this college's success. Strive to be the kind of man that others strive to emulate.

I look forward to watching all of you grow as men over the next four years. When you see me around campus, whether it is at an event, or just a “hello” in passing on the sidewalk, I want you to remember my challenge to you today. Yes, strive for success always. But, more than that, be a man of value.

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles - I want to thank you. These young men are truly a reflection of your hard work. Thank you.