

1996 Northville High School Leonard Rezmierski, Superintendent

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Class of 1996. It is indeed an honor to be a part of this significant occasion in the lives of those gathered here tonight.

To the Class of 1996 – we are all very proud of you. We are proud of your spirit and your resiliency. We are especially proud of your accomplishments as marked by the awards and recognitions bestowed at your Honors Convocation on March 29th. We are proud of each and every one of you. From your performances in plays and musicals – your participating in sports – and to your everyday efforts, this class has continued the high watermark of achievement.

This ceremony tonight symbolizes that you have gained the basic tools to begin participation in a very exciting age in our history. The accumulated knowledge of mankind will double and triple as you make career changes (possibly 3 to 7 times during your lifetime), many in fields yet to be discovered.

Never consider yourself finished with learning. The day you stop learning is the day you become a part of the problem instead of an instrument for solution. Broaden your range of interests as you continue to learn. The narrower your academic focus, the less you will be able to adapt to the changes forced upon you by expanding technology. However, don't let technology scare you. The more perspectives you can bring to problem-solving, the better equipped you will be to adapt to the changes that life will present.

This is a new plateau in your life where you are expected to make all your own decisions. Don't be afraid to ask for help. It is a sign of strength, not weakness!

This year, we continue a tradition at graduation. The SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD is presented to a student who has exhibited the most outstanding progress in spite of formidable odds.

I am delighted to announce that Lisa Marie Wisniewski is the recipient of the SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD this year. She has more than earned this recognition by her outstanding high school career, including two years as a member of the National Honor Society, her extracurricular activities, afterschool activities, and her courageous spirit.

Lisa's father had a profound impact on her life. He suffered from a terminal illness. When Lisa was a freshman at Northville High School, her father suffered a relapse of his illness and was hospitalized for nearly her entire freshman year. Sadly, Timothy Wisniewski died a week after Lisa made the Pom Pon team, and never

saw her perform. Lisa went on to become Captain of the 1995 State Champion Pom Pon Team. This is an example of Lisa's undaunted spirit.

Lisa has been a member of the Concert Choir for three years and was elected Concert Choir Historian. Those of use who have enjoyed the performances of this excellent Choir know that she has a proud history to record. She was selected to the Michigan School Vocal Music Association's State Honors Choir.

Her musical studies began at the age of eight when she started studying piano. As a professional pianist, her father's example and encouragement were important here, also. Lisa attended Interlochen School of the Arts in 1996 to study piano and is currently teaching ten students.

Recently, Lisa received the Northville Rotary Club Scholarship. She will attend the University of Michigan in the fall to study English.

With great pride and pleasure I present the 1996 SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD to Lisa Marie Wisniewski. Lisa, please join me to accept this award.

Class of 1996, as you leave this ceremony tonight on the path to your personal future, you become a part of a great tradition of excellence which is Northville High School. Buildings and people change, but that tradition of excellence will remain our goal as long as Northville High School is the "Center of Pride" for this community. Remember all who played a part in your achievement: your parents, grandparents, teachers, administrators, and yes, the community as a whole.

Let me share with you, in parting, a quote from the great Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841-1935), U.S. Supreme Court: "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

We are proud of each and every one of you, and we share your happiness this evening. Good luck, and God bless you.