

Empowered Choices

Speech Delivered at the 2001 SJSU Honors Convocation

April 20, 2001

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Thank you President Caret.

Congratulations to the Deans' scholars and President's scholars for your outstanding academic achievements. You should be very proud of what you have accomplished through your hard work and dedication to learning. I'll take the liberty of speaking for my faculty colleagues – we are very proud of you!

I am very honored to be given the opportunity to speak today to our San José State University scholars, their families and friends, my wonderful husband Eric, and to all of my wonderful colleagues here today celebrating the academic excellence of our honorees.

As you can see in the program, the title of my short talk today is "Empowered Choices." Why

So, that's it – three actions to help you make empowered choices for yourself. 1) a personal mission statement, 2) intellectual engagement, and 3) an empowered and positive attitude towards all that you do and plan to do. What you do matters and you are the one with the most control over your decisions, activities and outcomes.

Both personal lives and careers involve many choices. I encourage you to keep in mind that you can empower your choices to enable yourself to make decisions that will help you achieve your goals.

I wish you well and hope you will always take ownership of your decisions and actions and achieve great satisfaction and enjoyment from everything you do.

Again, congratulations to all of the San José State students being honored here today on your outstanding achievements!

Thank you.