

# Graduation 2021

Kristal Griffin – Traverse City Learning Lab

Graduates, family members, and our teachers, it is an honor to be part of this celebration for the 2021 graduation ceremony at Michigan Works Adult Education Center.

Today is an important day in all of our lives as we gather here to celebrate all of our hard work and accomplishments while surrounded by parents, family members, teachers, and all of the other people who taught and inspired us throughout our lives. I would like to express my appreciation to both my teachers, my mother, my husband, and all my other family members that have helped me get to where I am today.

All of the graduates you see here today have worked very hard to get to this day, and our work did not go to waste. A diploma is a great tool to have in this world. It is a tool that opens many doors of opportunity. This graduation is proof of our commitment to personal growth and this graduation shows us all how capable we are of accomplishing our goals when we commit ourselves to them. I hope all of us here today can take this personal accomplishment as an example of how anything is truly possible when we put our minds to it. As we all continue on with our lives, let us take each new problem on with confidence, knowing that we have achieved great heights and are equipped with the necessary tools to tackle our futures.

No matter where we go or what we do, there are challenges ahead of us. What I am asking from each of you, and from myself, is to meet those challenges straight on and with our heads held high. Strive for excellence in every task no matter how big or how small. We may not have the power to inspire the entire world to strive for success, but we do have the power to try our best to achieve success for ourselves. The future is truly in our hands now, so let's make the most of it!

I would like to end this speech by reciting one of my favorite quotes by Dr. Seuss.

You have brains in your head,  
You have feet in your shoes,  
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.  
You're on your own,  
And you know what you know,  
You are the person who will decide where to go.

***Thank you all for coming today to celebrate this special day.***