

普雷里维尤农工大学校长致哈佛大学2021届毕业生(1)

2022-06-24



Good day, and congratulations to the Harvard University class of 2021.

大家好，恭喜哈佛大学2021届毕业生。

Let me say that it is a singular honor to be invited to address you on this important milestone occasion.

能接到邀请，在这个具有里程碑意义的重要时刻给你们讲话，我感到无比荣幸。

To all completing their studies today, I offer my best wishes as you undertake the next exciting phase of your lives.

致所有在今天完成学业的学生们，在你们开启人生下一个激动人心的阶段之际，我向你们致以最美好的祝愿。

That you've succeeded so well during such a time as this is commendable and it augers well for the years to come when the world will greatly rely on your knowledge, your discernment and your empathy for those less fortunate than you.

这段时间，你们取得了巨大的成功，完全值得赞扬。在未来的岁月里，这个世界将在很大程度上依赖于你们的知识、洞察力以及你们对那些不那么幸运的人的同情。

When first approached about delivering this commencement address, I must say I was taken aback.

第一次接到邀请，要在毕业典礼上发表演讲时，不得不说我深感惶恐。

I didn't immediately feel up to the task, recalling occasions when I sat in Tercentenary Theater, looking across the expanse of graduates to the steps of Widener library,

我担心自己无法胜任，回想起我坐在Tercentenary

Theater前的场景，看着宽阔的毕业生队伍，来到怀德纳图书馆前的台阶上，

I couldn't picture myself confidently delivering remarks from a dais where so many more eminent figures had stood and indeed had made history.

无数杰出的人物曾站在这个讲台上创造了历史，我不敢想象自己能在这里自信演讲。

Growing up on a constant Jim Crow diet that offered assertions of my inferiority, I'm always that same little black girl trying to believe in and demonstrate her worthiness.

在黑人备受歧视的环境中长大，内心的自卑难以掩饰，但我一直是那个试图相信并证明自己价值的黑人小女孩。

Further, I thought about the challenge of what I might impart in such a pivotal national moment when social gains seem more like losses, when clarity gives way so easily to confusion, and when much heralded progress recedes like a total lie that was never really real.

此外，当社会进步更像倒退，当清晰轻易让位于困惑，当大受称赞的进步像虚假的谎言一样消失时，在这样一个关键的国家时刻，我担心自己会传递出什么样的理念信息。

I extend greetings from the faculty, administration and students of our 145 year old institution, Prairie View A&M University.

我谨代表拥有145年历史的普雷里维尤农工大学的全体教职员工、管理人员和学生们，向你们致以诚挚的问候。

And though I have not been anointed to do so, I also bring greetings from the collection of historically black and minority serving institutions that have the weight and privilege of advancing success, equity and opportunity for so many communities across our world.

虽然没有接到邀请，但我也代表来自历史上为黑人和少数族裔服务的机构向你们致以问候，这些机构有幸为世界各地的许多群体带来了成功、公平和机会。

Our university, like many HBCUs, was founded at the end of Reconstruction, when blacks were thought to be unable to perform the highest level of academic study.

像许多传统黑人大学一样，我们的大学成立于重建时期末期，当时人们认为黑人无法完成最高等级的学业。

I speak to you, in fact, from the Prairie View campus, whose 1,500 acres were once the site of the Alta Vista Plantation.

其实，我站在普雷里维尤校园里给你们讲话，这里1500英亩的土地曾经是阿尔塔维斯塔种植园旧址。

That plantation, before being sold to the State of Texas, was the site where 400 human beings were held in slavery.

那个种植园在卖给德克萨斯州之前，曾囚禁着400名奴隶。

Thus our very steps, as they daily tread upon vestiges of the suffering of our ancestors, call to us constantly to do our full duty as citizens.

因此，当我们的脚步每天踏在祖先曾遭受苦难的遗址上时，总会提醒我们要切实履行公民的所有职责。

Painful as such memories are they, are a powerful force that calls us to action when challenges arise.

虽然这些记忆很痛苦，但在面临挑战时，它们能带给我们强大的力量，召唤我们采取行动。

During the 145 years following our 1876 founding, it would take many years for most universities in our nation to grant access to Blacks.

自1876年建校后的145年里，我们国家的多数大学过了很多年才允许黑人入学。

So universities like Prairie View, designed with limited resources, serve the state and nation by admitting students to whom full access to the fruits of Liberty was intentionally blocked.

所以像普雷里维尤这样资源有限的大学，允许那些被刻意阻止获取自由果实的学生入学，以这种方式为我们的国家服务。

We're therefore proud of our legacy of endurance, and even prouder of the fact that we converted an assertion of the inferiority of African Americans into a triumph of human capacity.

因此，我们为自己坚韧不拔的精神遗产感到自豪，更令我们自豪的是，我们把歧视非裔美国人的陈见转变成了对人类能力的战胜。

Like other HBCUs, we made a place to empower rather than to disparage, to open minds rather than imprison them, to create pathways to promise rather than to stifle opportunity. 与其他传统黑人大学一样，我们创造了一个地方，赋予黑人权力而不是贬低他们；解放思想而不是禁锢他们；为他们提供希望而不是扼杀机会。



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