

## Year end Board Speech

12 months ago I sat in these chairs for the first time. Attended my first ever meeting at the board. I still remember looking around this room thinking “wow; what have I gotten myself into.” At the time I had never known that this position, this experience and these memories would be a pinnacle moment in my life. I cannot put into words how grateful I am for this opportunity. The friendships I have made, the perspectives I have gained and most importantly the person I have grown to become.

More than anything I want to take time to thank every person who made this year so special.

To the trustees. Thank you for being mentors, for teaching me so much more than how to read policy and follow Robert's rules of order. Thank you for welcoming me and treating me like family. I commend you all for doing primarily one thing; striving to make a positive change for the students.

To the senior staff. Thank you, for your dedication to education and guidance through this all. From Mr. Vetrones absolutely thrilling financial reports, to the constant questions that you all seamlessly always have the answers to.

To Anna, thank you for your split second response time on emails, and for the amazing food after policy. And Thank you to Mr. Crocco for being a huge role model. Without your ongoing support for students we would not have had such a great year.

And most importantly thank you to student senate, I have made 18 new friends who all have taught me something new. Our moderators Mrs. Cristelli, Mr. Griepsma and senate aunt Ms. Wood are all very much appreciated and have done so much for us.

Lastly, to my Co Madison McKinney a new lifelong best friend and sister, I do not know what I'd do without you. This is certainly not goodbye and I know you will achieve such greatness as you move on to Carlton university.

I am so lucky to be able to continue this journey in the coming year and I am more excited than ever to advocate for the 23,000 students in our board and I cannot wait to work with Luca and see all the wonderful things he will contribute.

Goodbyes and endings are never easy. But as I reflect on this year and all it has to offer I truly am blessed. From OSTA AECO conferences, to senate meetings, to long board discussions I would not change it for the world and I genuinely cannot articulate how much I appreciate all of it! Thank you to everyone and God bless.