

Visit with science and math high school students

Great to be back in a classroom

especially with math and science students.

Like coming home since most of my life

have been a science teacher and student/sometimes both at once.

When I was your age

in ancient olden days

A lot of people did not study science and math.

I was kind of unusual.

And really not all that many continued

to study science and math,
especially students of color and women.

And really in those days, people could find rewarding work

without knowing much science and math.

some people even took pride in this.

some still do.

But today, life is a lot different

And evrything is changing faster and faster.

This is because of the impact of technology, science and math

on every aspect of life--how we live, work, communicate, create art and music.

We are living through a true technological and social revolution.

Mention briefly

population

internationalization

age of knowledge.

These changes are challenges, sometimes frightening ones.

But they are also opportunities,

and that is how I hope you will see and use them.

New worlds are opening every day from the universe to the subatomic.

Spirit of adventure, new frontiers.

Time to dream great dreams of adventure.

In fact one of my first jobs was to plan how to fuel rockets

to take people to Mars.

Well we haven't got there yet.

But in your lifetime we probably will.

And some of you will be scientists who run experiments in space

or help plan space exploration and even settlement.

or perhaps you will explore the bottom of the sea

and help to harvest food there, or mine minerals.

Perhaps one of you will help find one of the key processes

that will cure a cancer or prevent birth defects.

Of course some of you may be on MTV or write a novel

but even artists and writers need to understand the forces

that are shaping our lives.

In fact every citizen needs to understand enough to understand

and make decisions that affect our country and our planet.

If you keep working hard and learning more science and math

there is no limit to your future.

Some of you may not realize that if you work hard and do well in school
you can go to college.

Michigan's colleges and universities
will be sure you have the financial aid you need
to complete college and even graduate school.

Schools across the country have financial aid for you, as well
although we are selfish enough to hope
you will choose to attend one of Michigan's 17 public universities.

Everyone of them is very good.

Of course, we hope you will think of the UM
but the important thing is for you to find
the right place for you.

Visit college campuses--
all of us have programs to bring you for a tour and meetings with students.

It's important to get the feel of campus and come to feel comfortable.

Money isn't the problem.

it's hard and you might have to work while going to school
but most students do that.

The only thing you need is to stick to your studies.

Education is the key to the future.

Key to meaningful work
also to fulfilling life.

People who drop out today won't find the well paying jobs
there used to be.

Anyway you will have more fun and make a bigger contribution to life
if you learn as much as you can.

Don't worry too much about specializing.

Truth is you will have many careers in your life

--guess what? most of you will keep going to school
on and off for the rest of your life.

You will have to keep learning to be able to change and keep up.

Look at me

I started out as a scientist and ended up a University President.

But if you are careful and work hard maybe this fate won't happen to you.

But whatever you want to be, go for it.

That's the Michigan spirit--and I hope we'll see you on our campus soon.

What kinds of questions do you have?