

Teacher of the Year



**Laura Roberts,
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Laura Roberts

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020. You worked hard to get to this point and are well deserving of this degree. Some time ago, you decided to further your education at Lehman College. You must have known that the return of investment on your time, money, and energy would be a degree. The degree that you earned is an asset that is yours to keep. It will never depreciate, nor will it ever get lost, and you are free to do with it whatever you choose. Some of you may decide to take your degree with you on a path toward employment, while others may pursue an advanced degree.

Another return on your investments in education is the relationships that you established over time. The relationships with your Lehman peers and professors are essential assets to have in your possession. They may even share similar functions to your degree, such as helping you establish credibility and providing you with networking opportunities.

However, there are some important distinctions between these two returns. First, relationships provide us with opportunities to experience love, pain, and forgiveness and also learn new, more helpful ways of thinking about ourselves and others. Relationships offer stability amid times of uncertainty, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. However, one of the biggest distinctions is that a college degree is a fixed asset, while relationships need continuous investments to avoid depreciation.

As you move on to the next phase of your lives, never lose sight of your assets, but just as important, remember that not all assets are considered equal. Some require additional time and more energy to reach their true potential. A wise man told me the following story to illustrate this point: "Envision what you hope to achieve in life as a pot of flowers. Flowers start from seeds that grow into seedlings and eventually beautiful, sturdy flowers with more seeds to sow. The process requires a balance of time, energy from the sun, and water for structure. And remember, if you give it too much water, it will rot." Remember the value of your assets and continue to make investments that will lead to the prosperous returns that you wish for. Wishing each of you and your families good health and continued success. Congratulations on this incredible accomplishment!