

***Jordan Koch, 2014-2015 Student Body President/Regent***

When thinking about what I wanted to say today, I knew that I wanted to talk about something that has really impacted me during the past 3 years here at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Reflecting about my time at UNO, I knew that it wasn't just one event; it was a series of experiences. I truly learned that every decision you make leads to something bigger or even just something as simple as learning about yourself or others around you.

Two very important decisions greatly affected the person I am standing here today, and those were enrolling at UNO and getting involved from the beginning. From the first day I toured this university to today, I felt and still feel a connection. This institution doesn't just offer academic courses, but it offers a wide range of opportunities for students like myself to learn hands on experiences that will stay with them after concluding their collegiate experience. For me, those learned life skills came from being involved in Student Government, but all students don't have the same interests. That's one of the greatest qualities of UNO, is that students have many options to become involved whether that be in academic organizations, studying abroad, Greek life, athletics, or simply just attending events to show school spirit. We have a very diverse population of students with an extensive list of interests and skills. The students are what make the University of Nebraska at Omaha so special. And, that is why I am standing here today as the 2014-2015 Student Body President Regent, because I want to serve and represent the students who make UNO the leading place to receive an education.

There are also some individuals who I would like to thank today because they made an impact in my life and guided and pushed me to reach my full potential. Without them, I guarantee that I would not be standing here today.

First would be Chancellor Christensen and all UNO administration, faculty and staff. They are what make this institution what it is and continually push to improve it. But most importantly, they encompass what it means to be "student centered," by always valuing students opinions and concerns. I cannot wait to get to know and collaborate with all of you during my term.

Next is the outgoing president, Martha Spangler, and her Executive Board. Thank you for always pushing me to keep improving my leadership skills and guiding me through some very difficult decisions. This year working with all of them was an absolute delight, and I have made many memories that I will cherish forever.

I would also like to thank the notable Student Government advisor, Ben Jager. For the past three years I had the honor of working with him, and over that time, he helped me learn about myself and in his terms, “be a real person.” I don’t think I can even count how many times I had made spontaneous visits into his office, and he is always willing to stop what he is doing and help. Hopefully he can put up with me for one more year, so thank you in advance.

Most importantly are my family and friends. My mother Julie, father Mike, and brother Hunter are definitely my greatest support team. Through all my successes and failures, they supported all my dreams, and never said they were too large. And lastly, my wonderful friends. Many of them are here today, and there are not enough thank you’s to say to them.

For the past three years, it has been my dream to serve as the 2014-2015 Student Body President/Regent, and now that I am here, I plan to make the most out of the experience and fully support and represent all the of the students of UNO.

Thank you!