Thank you for that very kind and flattering introduction. I am very honored to be chosen by this class as the faculty graduation speaker. When thinking about what I was going to say, I realized that speeches can be divide into two categories: Those that are memorable and those that we tend to forget. In my mind there are two types of memorable speeches; those that are remember for their truly inspirational nature and those that are remembered for their lack of inspiration. Right now, I am so nervous that I hoping just to give a speech which no one remembers.

After being asked to speak before this class I began to think about what I might say. I was hoping that students or colleagues would provide some inspiration. Well, let me tell you the advice I received. Most students congratulated me and asked me to be funny. Another said she couldn’t wait to hear my speech because she knew it would be hilarious! A group of young ladies even said I should give them a shout-out and that would make my speech great. As you could imagine, this advice was absolutely no help at all and surely my colleagues would step up to the plate and provide some inspiration. In my first encounter a colleague told me to be funny. Another even shared what they thought were a few good jokes. A slightly older colleague told me she couldn’t wait for my speech as she knew it would be memorable. Then were the people who told me: “don’t blow it”! “make it short so I can start my summer vacation”. All in all, not very inspiring!

At this point I decided to do what any good student would do………Go to google! So, I googled have to give a commencement address. The results were much more helpful. First advice: don’t be funny…I can do that!........Start with an inspiring quote……. Tell a story that connects with the audience……..praise the graduating class……

Start with inspiring quote: Booker T Washington Quote: “Success is to be measured not so much by the position or accomplishments one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome”

And to add: Accomplishments we have overcome though help and connections with others.

Tell: “my story” of how I overcame obstacles in life………see form filled out

Make connections to how the graduating class has helped me overcome the obstacle of becoming a better teacher…….and how they have made this school a better place.

Finally, I would like to make predictions about what the future may hold for them if they can overcome their obstacles: Successful contemporary writers (Gabriel Garcia, J.K. Rowling, Toni Morrison), contributors to society (Doc Hendley – fresh water in Africe; Jorge Munoz- immigrant who now feeds thousands of poor in NYC), Leaders in business (Jeff Bezos-amazon, Meg Whitman- ebay, Donald Trump – Trump JOKE!)

End with quote: and recite a short poem about success