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CHANCELLOR AD INTERIM  
COMMENCEMENT REFLECTION  
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There is a child in Worcester who cries because she cannot breathe.

There is a mother in South Africa who fears because she cannot walk.

There is a father in Asia who grieves because his family has an unknown disease.

Why do we care?

We care because we have been given the privilege to spend our lives in service to others.

We care because we know that we can make discoveries through scientific inquiry that can shape the future of medicine.

We care because we know that if we link the work of our hands to the love of our hearts that we can change lives throughout the world.

Today, together, we gather in celebration. We express pride in our graduates and appreciation for the commitment of our faculty.

But, we gather mindful of the responsibility that we accept.

For you see, now it is the case that in the poorest country of the world, the poorest person in the world can have an impact on the health of all the world; our world.

Caring for that person in our world is our concern. Throughout your education you have prepared to embark on your professional journey to undertake that care.

Will the voice of Worcester's child be loud enough to call for help? Or, will she gasp for air while we try to insure her?

Will the mother in South Africa be able to walk again?

Or, will she be lame because the care she needs could not reach her?

Will the family in Asia be cured of their disease?

Or, will we find it hard to deliver their medicines?

As caring professionals, this is the world you enter; these are the challenges that you face; these are the people for whom you will care.

Dr. Morse cared for that child. Justice Marshall walked with that mother. Dr. Fauci made the discoveries that treat that father's family.

Will you join them, us and each other in caring?

In caring, you will have the privilege of bringing dignity to another human being. This is the responsibility to which you have been called.

Let your minds, and hands and hearts reach out to those for whom you will care. They and you will be forever grateful.

It has been a privilege to serve as your interim chancellor this year.

Congratulations and best wishes.