

Convocation Address
Dr. Ken Kitts ~ August 26, 2015
University of North Alabama

Students, trustees, faculty and staff colleagues, and guests, it is my honor to be here today. This is a special event, an important event, and I was flattered to be asked to bring remarks at this, my first Convocation since joining UNA as president.

Students, did you pick up on what I just said? You and I have something in common. We are both new to this campus, so this is very much of a beginning for all of us. I hope you are as I am thrilled as I am to be here.

The word convocation

This fall marks my 28th year in higher education as a faculty member or faculty-administrator. During that time I've taught a lot, worked with faculty and staff in many different settings, and – as relates to you – I've watched countless students navigate the transition from high school to college. Many students get it right. They enter college focused, they avoid distractions, and they find the proper balance between their studies and other parts of life. Those students tend to graduate on time, go on to good jobs or good

So we'll try hard to help you succeed. But this thing has to be a partnership. And, in truth, ultimately it will come down to you. Your attitudes, your actions, and your decisions will be the key determinants of your success at UNA. And I want you to hear that message as something that is not intimidating but wonderfully empowering. It's up to you!

you already know the rest of my story from that point on. But again, I go back to my entry to college as a freshman as the key turning point in my life.

My mother-in-law loves poetry and literature, and her favorite po