

**Remarks for Anne S. Ferro
FMCSA Administrator
National Transportation Center Academy Graduation
San Marcos, TX
May 13, 2010**

Introduction

It is a great pleasure to be with you today. This ceremony marks a new beginning in your careers and I am very pleased to be a part of the occasion.

Someone once said, “We don’t have to take life the way it comes to us. By converting our dreams into goals, and our goals into plans, we can design life to come to us the way we want it. We can live our lives on purpose, instead of by chance.”

By becoming graduates today, you have taken a giant step to living a life of purpose and one of extra special meaning. I believe that there is no greater purpose than to work in the service of others. In our case at FMCSA, our work has a direct impact on saving lives.

Our commitment to safety gives us a purpose not easily matched anywhere else in the world of work – either inside or outside of government service.

Like you, I have felt most satisfied when I could see that the actions I was taking - whether it was big or small – and dealing with people I would never meet – may make a positive impact on people’s lives. It’s the lives you save that don’t get reported.

As Administrator, I want to eliminate crashes and fatalities so that people may travel with greater safety on the road. But, it is only through your dedication and commitment can we see this vision truly become reality.

Focus on the Field

With your training behind you – a new chapter begins in your service to the public. As you go about your new duties, I want you to know that I support you on the front line. You are serving in a crucial function for our agency.

We could not carry out our safety mission without safety investigators. Along with our state partners and local partners, you have become the force multiplier that enables us to fulfill our mandate... to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities.

I will be listening to hear your opinions and thoughts on how we can improve what you do.

And, each and every day, please return safely home from your duties knowing that you have made a difference because what you do has helped others to make it home safely.

At Headquarters, my job is to be sure you have the tools, trained supervisors, resources and partnerships to do your job. My greatest wish is to keep your enthusiasm level high and stay above any daily frustrations that may follow.

Conclusion

American writer William Ward once said, “Do more than belong, participate. Do more than care, help. Do more than believe, practice. Do more than be fair, be kind. Do more than forgive, forget. Do more than dream, work.”

I congratulate all of you for achieving this landmark in your careers and marking a new beginning. I am sure you find the road ahead to be filled with enough exciting challenges to satisfy a purpose-filled life.

Good luck in your new assignments. On behalf of Secretary LaHood and President Obama, you have our sincerest thanks and the thanks of the American people for the important work you do.

Thank you again. Congratulations.