

**Remarks from Governor Jim Doyle  
Master of Science in Biotechnology Commencement  
May 16, 2008**

It's an honor to be here with the graduating class from one of the most unique programs in the country.

Every time I'm asked to give a commencement address, there's a special thrill in it for me. That's because, when I look out at you, I can see the hard work, sacrifice, and discipline that's gotten each of you to this day. Just look around you. Take a look at your fellow graduates. Each one of you has come so far...accomplished so much. And it hasn't been alone. There's a team of people behind each of you who has worked hard, sacrificed, and supported you.

Congratulations.

Investing in biotechnology has been a top priority for me, and pushing forward with stem cell research is a great passion of mine. Let me tell you why.

As Governor, nothing makes me prouder than to be able to say Wisconsin is leading the country in the most critical sectors of the new economy: advanced manufacturing, bioindustry and renewable energy, and lifesaving stem cell research. These emerging industries will supply the jobs of tomorrow.

Over the next 20 years, stem cell research and regenerative medicine technologies are estimated to become a \$500 billion industry – and we are only at the ground floor of this vastly important field of life science discovery.

Just two weeks ago, we broke ground on what will be one of the preeminent research facilities in the world – The Institutes for Discovery. The Institutes will forge unprecedented partnerships in nanotechnology, biotechnology, engineering and information technology research. And the discoveries unleashed from that research will become the products and businesses that will improve lives and fuel Wisconsin's economy.

I have set an ambitious goal for the state of Wisconsin: to capture 10 percent of the market for biotechnology, stem cell research and health science technology by 2015. When I did that I knew that we would need more of the best and the brightest researchers, more business leaders, and the best attorneys to help us meet that goal.

Simply put, we need your help to get there. We need your help to lead us into the future.

Of course, this isn't just about economics. Biotechnology holds some of the world's greatest potential – not just scientific potential, or the potential to help grow businesses and the economy, but more importantly, the potential to change and save lives.

In my life I have met many people who could benefit from the career path you have chosen. But, I'm going to tell you about just two – two great Wisconsin moms who sum up what this is really about.

I couple of years ago I met Pam Fleischauer in Stevens Point. Her son Forrest is growing up with juvenile diabetes. She told me about all the sleepless nights she's spent worrying about his health, or testing his blood sugar in the middle of the night to make sure he's alright.

Here's what she said to me: "I don't know a single mother in this state who wouldn't give their own life to save their child. I'd gladly sacrifice myself for even the chance of a cure for my son."

The second mom I'll tell you about is my own mother. My mother was a State Legislator; she served on the Dane County Board and was the first female president of the Madison School Board. And she passed away after a 30 year battle with Parkinson's. Scientific advancements gave my mother decades ... decades that people diagnosed with Parkinson's just a few years earlier did not have. And for that I am grateful.

I understand that it is too late for my mother. But to think that the scientific know-how, the creativity and ingenuity that it will take to unlock the cures for debilitating illnesses like diabetes, Parkinson's, and other diseases long thought incurable, can be found right here in this room – that is incredible.

Thank you.

Thank you on behalf of all those families who spend sleepless nights worrying about a loved one. Thank you on behalf of the kids who have already had their fingers pricked thousands of times in their lifetime. And thank you from all of us who hold compassion for those who battle illness and all of us who believe the promise of tomorrow cannot come soon enough.

The pride in the eyes of your parents, family, and friends is shared by everyone in Wisconsin. On behalf of a proud and truly grateful state, I offer you my most heartfelt congratulations, and I expect to see much of you – and your achievements – in the years ahead.

Congratulations and good luck.