

Deeded Body Ceremony

Good afternoon everyone. My name is David Moore and I am truly honored to be speaking on behalf of the Medical Students class of 2022. I want to start off by telling you all a story that one of my classmates told me while I was preparing this speech for today. When my classmate found out that she was going to be attending the University of Iowa, she was ecstatic. She had learned the great history of the medical school and heard about the amazing people and curriculum that CCOM provided. She also knew that she would get to be a part of a cadaver lab her first semester. What she told me next nearly made my jaw drop. She said that ever since she found out that she would be taking this course here, she prayed. She prayed for the individuals donating their bodies and their families, as well. And when she traveled abroad prior to school starting in Europe and she lit a candle in many of the churches and cathedrals that she visited for the donors and their families. Your loved ones donation to our class matter to us and I want to share with you just how much it matters.

It was early august of 2018 and our class had just started our first year of medical school. The words I can use to describe our thoughts that first morning of class were excited, scared, nervous, oh my gosh did I remember my ID badge, and am I really about to do this? We had a Foundations lecture, a Clinical and Professional Skills lecture, and a few anatomy lectures. Those classes were the first

of many. In those classes, we are taught by world renowned physicians, researchers, and lecturers about medicine. But I can say, without a doubt, the best teachers we will ever have are the donors that we spent so much time with. Sure we might learn parts of how to be a physician in each lecture. But nothing truly taught us Anatomy, empathy, humanism, compassion, spirituality, caring, and desire to learn more than the donors we met on the very first day of medical school. Our donors taught us to celebrate life and to never forget the need for humanity and compassion in medicine – a lesson that could never be explained in any textbook.

Thank you. (pause) Thank you for giving the most generous and most selfless gift. Thank you for wanting to help us, for trusting us, and for believing in us. In that relationship, it was more than the physical connection we shared. Our donors were truly our first and most important patients. We learned from them more than we could ever learn from a living person. Even though you are gone, your gifts have forever been passed on. It is with this gift you and your loved ones have created a ripple effect.

There are no words to express the gift that the donors and you all gave and the impact you've had on our medical education and our future careers. With this gift, you and your loved ones have helped to create and inspire 150 new physicians. These 150 physicians will go on to treat countless patients and make

many contributions to the field of medicine. Through this amazing and generous gift, our donors are creating a ripple effect that could lead to a cure for Cystic Fibrosis or to the next medical advancement or to saving another's life. This gift goes beyond helping our class, its helping the thousands of patients that we will treat in the future. I truly cannot express to you the depth of our gratitude.

Our bodies are our dearest possession and to agree to be a donor knowing the consequence makes these people real life heroes to me. It is no small thing to make such a selfless decision. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the donors and their families for their generous gift. Studying from your loved-one helped me and my classmates to come one step closer to becoming a competent physician. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. It is a gift that will not be forgotten.