



# Cornell University

David J. Skorton  
*President*

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Dear Students:

It's a great pleasure to write this letter and offer a couple of brief thoughts on what I wish I had known when I was your age.

I have two thoughts to share. First, as each year has passed I have recognized with greater force and clarity the evanescence of life. If you have a chance to spend extra time with friends or family who are ailing or who are even older than I, take that opportunity and spend the time. Nothing will equal this investment of your energy and attention.

Second, I urge you to surround yourself with opinions and perspectives different from your own. Nothing will expand your horizons more than interacting with people with a different point of view even if that point of view challenges your most closely held beliefs; perhaps particularly if it challenges you most closely held beliefs.

Thanks for giving me a chance to comment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

David J. Skorton  
President