I have been inspired by a book that I return to often: *The Measure of Our Success*, by Marian Wright Edelman.

I will be addressing especially the young people in the audience today, just beginning your careers. I have decided to share with you what I would tell my 20-year-old self. I will give you 10 words of wisdom, starting with #10, David Letterman style.

10) Go for it!
   - Get comfortable being uncomfortable.
   - Trust your instincts.
   - Imagine what you could do if you knew you couldn’t fail.

9) Pick carefully.
   - Manage your personal brand.
   - Choose a company where you ethically align with their values, a company you can be proud of and derive real meaning in your life from working there.
   - Associate with people who uplift you and push you to be your best.

8) Network, network, network.
   - Relationships matter.
   - Be deliberate about maintaining your relationships.
   - Schedule the time, like anything else important in your life.
   - Create your personal board of directors.
   - Reciprocate, whenever you are able.

7) Men can be great allies.
   - It is important for women to create strong relationships with the men you work with.
   - Men have daughters, sisters, wives.
   - It takes men and women working together to achieve equality.
   - President Obama: “That’s what 21st century feminism is about. When everyone is equal, we will all be more free.”
6) Realize that sometimes it’s me.
   - Get out of your own way.
   - It’s not about being perfect.
   - You have to personally believe you deserve to be in the room.

5) Be a leader, not a manager.
   - Develop your soft skills.
   - Leaders must be agile.
   - You must have the ability to inspire and lead.

4) You matter, sometimes more than anyone else.
   - You have to make time for yourself.
   - While sacrifices are critical and necessary, make time for yourself and your family.
   - Respect others’ down time and fun time.
   - Me time clears your head and makes you more productive.

3) Shit happens. Have a Plan B.
   - What you do after a failure is what makes the difference.
   - Face issues head on. If you can’t fix it, move on.
   - Have a Plan B and move ahead.

2) Be an advocate for change and give back.
   - I have had sponsors and mentors that guided me.
   - I have had family and friend that prayed for me.
   - Never underestimate the influence you have to make the world better.
   - To whom much is given, much is expected.

1) Be your authentic self.
   - Pursue personal and professional passions in a way that’s meaningful to you.
   - Listening to the sound of the genuine within yourself is the only way to live your life.