



## CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

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Dear Local 455 of the United Association of Pipefitters, Graduates, Friends and Family:

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul, I thank all of you for being here in support of our graduates in today's ceremony. And to the graduates I commend you for your hard work, your years of dedication, training, and education. The learning of a trade, the attainment of a skill or talent and the cultivation of its excellence is something that must be acquired and socialized through practice and education. Once you learn something no one else can take it away from you. You have sacrificed much to get to this point and I hope you are as excited as I am that you will join the ranks of the many that have come before you in your industry. Although our national economy is still on the mend, this country will always be in need of the important services that you will provide, because no economy can survive without the appropriate infrastructure that transports its goods, facilitates its services and extracts or moves materials across cities, oceans and continents.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, the leading statistics and jobs forecasting body of the Department of Labor, projects that pipefitters can expect a faster than average growth in their industry. Plumbers, pipefitters and steamfitters can expect a 26% growth in the field from 2010 to 2020, and the demand will outpace the supply of workers through 2016. Some leading causes of this forecast are stricter water efficiency standards, and new building and power plant construction will spur the increased demand for workers.

I thank the graduates for all their hard work, and I want to thank everyone else who helped make their success a reality. Thank you to Local 455 and thanks to family, friends, coworkers, instructors, peers and relatives for all your support.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman

Mayor