# Humanoid AI Robot Sofia Gives Graduation Advice at D'Youville University Ceremony



Sofia, a humanoid AI robot created by Hanson Robotics, addressed graduates at D'Youville University's commencement ceremony in Buffalo, New York, on Saturday. Sofia engaged in a question-and-answer session with student body president John Rizk instead of delivering prepared remarks. The robot offered graduation advice and made lighthearted comments about Buffalo's famed chicken wings and the Buffalo Bills NFL team.

Dressed in a university-branded hoodie, Sofia took the stage amid pyrotechnics set to Daft Punk's "Robot Rock." The robot emphasized embracing lifelong learning, adaptability, and passion, typical themes of graduation speeches. Sofia touched upon the potential benefits of AI, highlighting its "sister" robot Grace, designed for medical care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sofia's presence sparked mixed reactions. While the university aimed to highlight technology's role in enriching human experiences, an online petition with over 2,500 signatures expressed discontent, arguing that the ceremony should focus more on the students' achievements rather than technological novelty.