

Graduation Speech

The Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor, Chairman of University Council, respected professors, distinguished guests, parents, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow graduates, thank you all for coming to share with us this important and liminal day of our lives. Every year I was always flabbergasted by how the prospective graduates welcomed their graduations with a lot of enthusiasm. Today, I must guiltily admit that I am enthusiastic to leave as well. I am extremely excited to move on to the next chapter of my life which would involve putting the skills, knowledge and experiences I have acquired from this institution into practice. I am also sad to leave this university! I will greatly miss the ABC University family. I am also frightened of saying the tearful goodbyes to my great friends in ABC University after this ceremony. My fellow graduates, we are leaving ABC University because the time has come for this part of our lives to come to a close.

Before going any further, I would like to join the rest of the world paying tribute to Professor X, the current Vice Chancellor of ABC University. Professor X, our beloved Vice Chancellor has garnered incomparable fame among the students, senior management of the university and staff members for his efforts to change the university and lives of people in the neighboring communities. First and foremost, Professor X has been working day and night to ensure that students from poor families do not drop out of college because of lack of fees. Professor X and his team have been sourcing scholarships and financial aids to the needy students in order to enable them to finish their university education. Similarly, the ability of physically disabled students to attain education has been a major priority to Professor X. It is under his leadership and guidance that we have witnessed the largest number of physically

disabled students enrolling for higher education in this country. Professor H. S. from the Faculty of Human Sciences describes the Vice Chancellor as a man with great quest for the disadvantaged people in the society. For my part, I would describe the Vice Chancellor as a man with unrivaled and exceptional concern for the disadvantaged students. Professor L from the Faculty of Law also affirms that she was extremely excited when the Vice Chancellor appointed her to chair the ABC University Scholarships Committee because she was certain that the appointment would definitely accord her an exceptional opportunity to touch the lives of needy and disadvantaged people in the society, a dream she developed during her early childhood. I would like to salute Professor X for his incomparable concern for the physically challenged, poor and disadvantaged people in our society. As a former executive member of the Students' Council of ABC University, I would also attest that the Vice Chancellor has always been a great source of advice and wise counsel, and very compassionate and responsive to the needs of students in this institution.

Secondly, I would like to salute the Vice Chancellor for choosing to use his status and influence to raise his voice on behalf of those who have no voice. The Vice Chancellor chose to identify himself not only with the powerful and elite in the society, but also with the powerless and needy. He always retained the ability to imagine himself into the lives of others. This can be evidenced by his unremitting fight for increased funding from the federal and state governments that would facilitate the accessibility of education by women in the society. Under his leadership, ABC University has recorded a twelve percent increase in a number of full female professors in the institutions. According to Professor S. G. from the Institute of Social Growth and Development and Gender Studies, the Vice Chancellor has initiated a new scholarships program which would enable young women with excellent academic backgrounds to receive education in

this university through partial or full scholarship depending on the neediness of the student and availability of funds.

To conclude, I would encourage you to make new plans for the future immediately after this graduation ceremony. Make plans that would enable you impact the lives of other people in the society. Dear fellow graduates, the Vice Chancellor has shown us the right path and way to follow. It is now our turn to walk the journey without relenting. This is the right time for us to bring change in our society. It is our turn to add meaning to the lives of other people in the society. All of us should join hands and work collaboratively towards the success of this noble social initiative. When I look back at the efforts and successes of our Vice Chancellor, I get convinced that we all possess the power to change the lives of others in the society. According to Dr. D from the Department of History and Literature, every individual is the author of his or her own history. Thus, all us should write our histories that will forever remain in the memories of others and empower future generations. As we shape our destinies as ABC University graduates, we should also shape the lives of other people in the society. It is also important to remember how the people we have met, friends we have made and experiences we have come across at ABC University have changed our lives.

I believe that graduation ceremonies are meant for celebrating our lives at colleges and universities, and also that appreciation is one of the most important things in life. Thus, we have to celebrate our hard work in ABC University on this special graduation ceremony. I would also like us to celebrate the life of Professor X, our esteemed Vice Chancellor who has touched our lives and continues to put smiles on faces of hundreds of disadvantaged people in our society.