

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

On behalf of all the graduates, I extend profound gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Vice Chancellor, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the Registrar, the Provost of the College of Arts, Built Environment, other College Provosts present, the College Registrar, the Faculty Deans, the Heads of Departments, Members of Convocation, and the dedicated Faculty and Staff. Your collective efforts have created an enriching environment for learning, networking, and character development here at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, our premier destination for quality education.

Special appreciation goes to our esteemed Lecturers for the invaluable guidance, profound counsel, and knowledge generously imparted to us, both within and outside the classroom. We owe a debt of gratitude to our families for their unwavering love and steadfast support throughout these years, serving as the bedrock of our strength to pursue excellence and transcend boundaries.

A heartfelt thank you to all the Organizations and individuals whose financial support paved the way for us to successfully complete our undergraduate studies. On a personal note, I express eternal gratitude to Educational Pathways International (EPI) for sponsoring my undergraduate education. To our mentors and cherished friends, your guidance and steadfast support have been instrumental. To our classmates, thank you for the shared moments and the enduring relationships that will withstand the test of time. Four years on this sacred ground have been arduous, but collectively, we have triumphed.

Today marks a significant day, signaling the culmination of four years of academic rigor, self-discovery, and profound lessons. After enduring a temporary suspension of in-person graduations, we stand together to celebrate this remarkable milestone. It is an honor to stand before you as the Valedictorian for the 57th graduation ceremony for the College of Arts and Built Environment at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Today doesn't merely signify an end but heralds a new beginning. We are embarking on diverse paths and careers—some pursuing graduate studies, others entering the workforce or establishing businesses, and a few may take gap years to explore their passions. Remember, it's your life; pursue what resonates with your passion. Cultivate a positive attitude and believe that your incremental steps will converge, forming a meaningful tapestry in the future.

While exploring your passions, resist self-imposed limitations. If Plan A encounters obstacles, be open to Plans B, C, or even Z. You might be struggling to establish a career in property valuation without realizing your potential as the next football star or being confined to Architecture when your true calling lies in comedy. Alternatively, investing considerable time in painting or sculpting may divert you from leaving an indelible mark as a Counselor, impacting countless lives.

The journey may not be seamless for everyone, challenges may tempt us to surrender. In those moments, remember that the success of many is intricately linked to your triumphs. Persevere, never toss in the towel. The skills acquired, both inside and outside the classroom, coupled with your attitude, will pave the way for immense success.

I wish you Godspeed in all your endeavors, eagerly anticipating the celebration of the extraordinary successes and achievements awaiting each one of you. A stanza from Marianne Williamson's poem, "Our Deepest Fear," encapsulates my sentiments today:

"We were born to manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone. As we let our own light shine, we consciously permit others to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others." So, let your light shine! **CONGRATULATIONS** once again. Thank you.