COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

FOR

JASON MORGAN

Hello everyone and welcome to this year’s Commencement exercises for the Associates and Bachelors of the class of 2013 of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University. I want to thank the faculty, administrators, family and friends of our graduates for being here today and sharing the great energy that naturally comes with such an impressive collective achievement. (**If there is anyone in particular you want to acknowledge, do so here**). I want to take a moment to acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you so much for all that you’ve done for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Your contributions are generous and thoughtful and everyone here really appreciates all of your tireless support.

To all of you graduates, today is the day you complete the formal portion of your education and move on to the next chapters in your lives, but keep something in mind wherever you go and whatever you do. We are placed here on earth to learn. Everything we do is in the spirit of gaining knowledge. In school, we are taught how to learn. As college graduates, you will now exercise those muscles that have been taught, and we will see where those toned and stretched and educated “muscles” take you. The philosopher Julia H. Gulliver once said, “Let us never be betrayed into saying we have finished our education; because that would mean we had stopped growing.” Here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you have spent the past several years of your lives being encouraged to grow. After such constant practice, let’s hope the thirst for knowledge has become a habit, albeit a healthy one!!

The world is becoming a very exciting, interesting and connected place to be. The technologies we can all take advantage of have conspired to force us to evolve. We have new ways of gaining information, connecting with people personally and professionally, and hearing news, and our brains are being subtly trained and challenged to adapt to new ways of thinking and new patterns of absorbing information and being with people. As you graduate and take your place in this world, remember the saying, “Adapt or die.” I don’t necessarily mean **literally**-just remember to keep an open mind and follow the path placed before you. Question the moves as necessary and remember to place one foot in front of the other in order to adjust to the twists and turns of your unique path in life. Remain hungry for knowledge and respectful of your environment and those around you. Question the status quo when necessary, and remember to prepare yourselves to be responsible for the future. If there’s one thing every person in this community and throughout the world has learned is that we never know what tomorrow may bring us. As educated adults, I invite you to plan for your future while living for today.

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” You are about to inherit the future. Use your education to make a difference in the world, and remember – don’t get too stressed about that. Not everyone will conquer Mt Everest or find cures for the diseases and conditions that ravage our society. Each one of you, in your own way, will make a difference in this world. We each get one vote in life, and by that I mean you have choices to make every single day. Your voice is heard in your workplace, in your family, with your friends, and in your community. Continue your life’s education as you go forth and contribute your special gifts to this world. Consider the impact you have on the world and act accordingly and responsibly. All of us at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are thrilled to have witnessed your very special right of passage, and now it is up to you. Take the reins and stake your claim in the future. We all encourage you to be the best and most vibrant version of you that you can possibly be. As your education serves you in life, remember to use your light to guide others who follow in your footsteps to find their way throughout life.

Congratulations and thank you for all you are about to do and be and accomplish! Thank you!