**14196, Jama Goers**

"Still standing ready for the next step”

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone here today, faculty, staff, family and friends, and most importantly, our graduates! Today is a momentous occasion and you have much to celebrate for today you are finishing your bachelor of science of nursing BSN in Platt College’s accelerated nursing program. I’m quite sure all of you are as nervous as you are excited morning. I know because I have stood in your shoes. I graduated from this same nursing program and now I work with students in the simulation lab and concepts of advance life support. This graduating class is the first group of students that I taught when I first came to Platt College as the Simulation Laboratory Coordinator and Faculty. I used the same approach I used as a nursing educator in the hospital setting. These students have shown their ability to work and succeed as a professional nurse or field of nursing I want you to know I am very proud of every one of you as you complete your course of study.

You have all worked very hard to meet and overcome the challenges that are part of a difficult nursing program. You studied hard to pass the ATI testing. You spent long hours studying; you worked long clinical hours at various locations. You worked on assignments at all hours of the night, and pushed the limits on caffeine consumption. Some of you experienced the occasional breakdown, but you overcame that and finished your course. Last but not least you worked hard to learn the mega-code required for your work.

Each of you began your studies with a goal to complete your education and to finish strong. You can be proud of yourselves because you have indeed finished strong. This is a challenging program and you have all proven your ability to learn and to excel under challenging circumstances. Now that your studies are complete it is time that you put all that knowledge into practice as you go out from here today to begin your new careers.

You have some goals that I want you to take with you today as you close one door and open another in your lives. First and foremost, always remember that you are a valuable asset. You are highly educated and well prepared for what is before you. The contributions that you make will be invaluable regardless of your specific positions. You can always feel good about nursing as a profession and the contributions you will make in your various positions.

Whatever individual positions you fulfill, in whatever type of facility you serve in any location, always remember that you are indispensable. No one can carry out your responsibilities exactly like you with the same level of excellence that you exhibit. You can always be proud of your work.

One of your responsibilities will be to improve patient outcomes. You will do that with every task you complete, with every decision you make regarding your patients, with every effort you put forth. Know today that you are more than capable of carrying out your responsibilities with excellence. Your patients will appreciate your attention to detail and your every consideration of their needs. You will have many other responsibilities but this will be your most important one. Each of you knows by now how important it is for you to accept responsibility for your duties and for your actions. I know that you all accept those responsibilities without question.

I know from working with you that each of you is proud of the profession that you have chosen. I want to encourage you to find some way to celebrate your profession every day. Nurses are a unique position unique in the medical profession with unique requirements and necessary skills depending on the type of nurse you choose to become. Today there are many different types of nurses, not just one. Being a nurse is a vital position in medicine. Nurses have a wide scope of professional choices and are depended on by the patient, family members, and community.

Today you stand on the threshold of the next season of your lives. Today you close the door on your college education but you do not close the door on learning. You understand that medicine is changing and improving every day. New drugs, new treatments and new procedures are developed daily. As nurses you will have to work hard to stay on top of all these changes. But, then, that is part of your DNA. You are as good as you are because you have a thirst and a desire to continue your learning so that you can always provide your patients with the highest level of care. This is what makes you great at your job.

Today you are all still standing and ready for the next step. You have completed your studies, you have done your diligence and you are prepared for the next step in your career. I can tell from looking at you that you are anxious to take that next step. You are ready to take the next challenge. When you leave here today you will take that next step. You will meet the next challenge and the next. Know that we who have been your faculty are proud of you and stand with you. We are here for you if you ever need us as you move forward.

Congratulations and Good Luck Graduates!