**14356, Florence Baker - graduation**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I’d like to welcome all of our graduates here for this momentous occasion. I also want to welcome the families and friends of our graduates and thank you for being here to support them. This ceremony marks the completion of their bachelor’s degree. You have worked hard and accomplished much and although today marks the end of this stage of your education, it also marks the beginning of the next stage of your career.

We have all heard people talk about lab techs or lab technicians or lab technologist and heard that term used in more than one way. For any here who may not know, a lab technician and a lab technologist are not the same job. They may sometimes share some of the same tasks but there are some definitive differences between them. The first is in education, with lab technicians only being required to hold an associate degree and stresses practical job skills. A lab technologist, however, must earn a 4-year bachelor's degree in medical technology or life sciences. While a technician work consists of preparing specimens and doing other tasks following detailed instructions while technologists problem solve, interpret data, and act as project managers. Technicians can continue their education to become technologists while technologist can continue their education to move into more advanced medical fields.

You have many opportunities before you as you seek for and begin new careers. I urge you to take seriously your pledge of ethics to Image Wisely and follow ALARA, which means to as low as reasonably achievable in carrying out your duties as radiologists. I have great faith in each and every one of you to fulfill your duties responsibly and with great skill.

I know that as you step out and begin your work you will endeavor to do your work with the greatest quality and safety. I am quite sure that you all have career goals that take you beyond where you are today. I urge you, therefore, to do more than just find a great job with a great employer and excel at that work. I urge you to consider where you are working and be ready and watchful for new opportunities as they become available. Make sure you are ready for that next step in your career, ever watchful for it when it happens. When you do see that opportunity I urge you to reach out and grab that opportunity with all the conviction and excitement possible.

Each of you has proven your potential for the future in your achievement and accomplishments as you completed your education at this school. As you go forward remind yourself of that sense of accomplishment you have today and don’t allow future challenges and frustrations to interfere with your future success. Everyone experiences challenges and frustrations. Just remember who you are and what you have learned and what you are capable of achieving, continue your learning and move forward and you will all accomplish much in your careers. Good luck to each of you.

Thank you