GRADUATION CEREMONY SPEECH

FOR

KAYDEE CLARK

Hello everyone and thank you for being here to share this event with all of the participants of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Assisting (**Is it Medical Assisting or Medical Assistant? I was following the instructions you had given- please use correct term**) Program (**Please use correct name of the course**). Naturally today is a very special one for all of you that have completed the course and are graduating, but it is fitting to have the rest of you here as well. To the families and friends who are here, our graduates would not have achieved this considerable milestone without your encouragement, support, and patience, so I want to acknowledge all of you for being so reassuring and present. (**Acknowledge the administration and other faculty from the school as needed**) To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you provide the foundation that is needed to sustain and maintain this course and for that we are truly thankful.

It is no secret that the medical profession is facing challenges from all sides. Now that you have graduated from this course, your skills, compassion and willingness to learn and get the job done are needed more now than ever before. Talented, caring and educated Medical Assistants and Phlebotomists truly are on the **front lines** of patient care and in many instances your abilities and enthusiasm will set the tone for the patient’s emotional, intellectual and physical reactions to the care they will receive.

It is believed that Hippocrates said, “Where the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.” The six-month course you just completed was difficult. It was intense and challenging, and designed to prepare you for the actual demands you will face in the professional medical community. Make no mistake. The challenges are just beginning but I want you all to know that I believe in your abilities and I am so proud of each one of you. Your jobs will be to provide endless supplies of compassion, attention, and resourcefulness. Some days that will be more challenging than on others, but you will find your way… and like Hippocrates said, I too, am passionate about this profession and I am equally committed to the humanity demonstrated by each one of you. I have great confidence in your abilities. Your success is a reflection of our collaboration and I want you to know that I really care about your continued effectiveness going forward.

I have to say that I loved working with all of you and I am honored to be, of a sort, your mentor as well as your teacher. My dedication to your success is a direct tribute to the wise professionals that so passionately mentored and taught me, and I would like to specifically acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his/her patience and wisdom that guided me… and ultimately us… for the past six months.

I have twelve years of experience in the medical profession and if there is one thing I have learned it’s that we **NEVER** stop learning. I applaud each one of you for your persistence and dedication, and even when times got really tough, you got through. It’s been said, “It doesn’t get easier. **YOU** get stronger.” Just **wait and see** how much **stronger** you’re going to get!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Along the way you’ve made mistakes… we **ALL** have… but the measure of a person’s character comes from being **accountable** for the work produced. Learning to be responsible for all that you do is the sign of a true professional. And that is where the growth and strength are found. And each one of you has grown. Even if you look back to when you first thought of enrolling and taking the course, you might remember the considerations you had… Some of you didn’t know how you would find the time or the resources to fit six months of grueling education into your already over scheduled lives, but you did it. Some may have wondered where you might find the emotional or physical strength to get through some procedures and process (**If you want, remind them of some of the tougher lessons they had to endure**) but **YOU DID IT**! All of you have made some **DOOZIES** of mistakes, but I’m sure as you look back on those, they will turn out to be the most valuable lessons you’ve learned. Each one of you has priorities in your lives but you understand the importance of the work for which you have just been trained and you admirably accepted, executed, and completed this really difficult work and I applaud each one of you.

For the past six months we’ve worked hard, **together**, to achieve a common goal and through it all, we got to know and support one another, we bonded, and yes, we also laughed…. In fact, I’ve composed a little tribute (**You can play the video here if that works for you and point out the highlights of your time together**).

And now the time has come for us to get to the all-important Pinning Ceremony. This ceremony is a tradition in several areas of the medical profession and it serves to provide a symbol of the hard work you’ve mastered…. so far. **(If you want to make a little joke you can say…)** I’m sure you **ALL** get the **POINT** (**And wait for the laugh**). Each one of you has done admirable and commendable work and some of you have exceeded expectations in some areas (**Name the honorees here**).

For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**and so on for the honorees**) ……Congratulations to all of you and we at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name the school)** look forward to seeing the future of our profession in your very capable hands! Thank you!