**15704, Tigist Mengeste**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

As an alumnus of CNI College in 2012 I’d like to welcome all our 2016 graduates and their families and friends. I also want to welcome the faculty and staff, to this year’s graduation. I also want to thank the school for inviting me back to grant me this award.

My two years here at CNI were two of the best years of my life. My instructors were more than just my teachers, they were mentors. They taught me more than just the facts and figures I needed to know in order to graduate. They took the time to listen when I was troubled. They took the time to explain things when I was stumped. They made the effort to go the extra mile and encourage me to stretch myself and become the best I could be, not just do what was necessary to graduate. I owe my career to all your hard work and mentoring.

I want to encourage all of the graduates today and congratulate you on your accomplishments. Studying to become a nurse is not an easy course of study, but every one of you has completed your studies. You should be proud of what you have accomplished. The hardest part can be seen as actually going out and getting a job as a nurse. But, now that I have been doing that for a couple of years, I can honestly tell you that working day to day as nurse isn’t the hardest part, it’s the best part.

There are many jobs that can develop into a wonderful, satisfying career. But, being a nurse is more than a satisfying career. Being a nurse requires something more. Being a nurse is a calling. I have found that the best nurses I have encountered on the job are those to whom it comes naturally. They have a special second nature that directs them as they go about their duties. When they go about their duties it is not just about tracking the patient’s medicine or treatment schedules. It’s about seeing to the needs of people who can’t take care of themselves. It’s about showing them that they matter to someone. It’s about letting them know that they are more than an assignment.

Today you stand at a turning point in your lives. You are completing one season and beginning a new one. Some of you already have your first job lined up. Some of you may be deciding between multiple job offers, while others may be going on to further your medical education. Whatever your next step, be assured that you have a great foundation for your education from here at CNI. Whatever you decide to do from here you can be sure that you have well prepared for that next step.

As you sit here today and listen to speeches, as you make that special walk up here to receive your diplomas, know that you have given your best and you are well prepared for that next step. Congratulations to each and every one of you. I wish you all the best in your careers.

Thank you