**NETWORKING SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JEAN ESTANISLAO**

Hello everyone! To family and friends, colleagues, fellow nurses, graduates, faculty, staff, students, and graduates, President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Dean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and all of you who have traveled from far and wide to be with us today, welcome. Your presence, enthusiasm and encouragement of this school and the work we do is tremendously appreciated, and if I must say so, we’re **worth the trip**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and its distinguished School of Nursing have a long history of providing quality education and support for medical facilities throughout the community and beyond and it is a great privilege for me to take a few moments to share the “**secret sauce**”..... and by that I mean what makes this institution so great. Actually... it’s not a big secret... It’s all of **YOU**.

Nursing is a noble profession. It takes a very special person to dedicate one’s personal commitment to the care and attention of others.... especially when they are not necessarily in the best condition to advocate for themselves..... (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) and another thing... although industry suppliers do their best.... we **CERTAINLY** don’t **RUSH** to become nurses for the “**sharp wardrobe**!!!” (**Wait for the laugh**).... I know that uniform companies have made strides in that last few years, but.... has anyone **REALLY** analyzed all of that polyester? It can tend to be a **little scratchy**, no??? Why do you think they call them “**SCRUBS**???” (**Wait for the laugh**). Fortunately, our caring professionals, determined nursing students, and eager graduates can.... and **DO** see beyond the superficial “ look” of our vocation... About nursing, it’s been said, “Nurse: just another word to describe a person strong enough to tolerate anything and soft enough to understand anyone....”. Nurses are there for people in all sorts of situations.... in exhilarating times.... to assist in the dawning of new life... during crises and trauma, when cooler heads and steady hands must prevail, and at end of life, when “patience” and compassion are necessary to provide the dignity and comfort we would all want to receive when that time comes. Everyone... no matter who you are.... no matter how healthy your general condition.... no matter how fit or comfortable or sick or scared or concerned you are, will be served and tended to by a capable, professional, qualified, caring nurse in his or her lifetime. It’s why we do what we do. It’s why we promote the well-being of nurses through organizations like ours.... because although they ... we... do our jobs diligently, selflessly, regardless of the ticking clock or the conditions... there is **NOT TOO MUCH** we can do to support nurses to get the job done.

Over the years we have established and supported a long, fruitful, and expanding organization dedicated to awarding scholarship grants to deserving students. We’ve provided support for community services, and advanced outreach to exceptional university instructors. We’ve filled in the gap between nursing students and alumni so that there exists a seamless web of communication, camaraderie, and mutual encouragement. Each year brings new challenges, and each year we gain more insight through more experience and greater knowledge of what needs to be done in order to be able to set intelligent, workable goals to meet and hopefully exceed our expectations. All projects are initiated and supported through the hard work and dedication of our members, and our nominated communities receive positive, lasting, support in the process. Of course, the more we do, the more we **WANT** to do, and that takes the involvement of as many people as possible. While the alumni has been doing an impressive job, there is nothing more gratifying than to have the privilege to work alongside **new graduates**.... our **entire profession** is built on **mentoring others**, continuous teaching ... **LEARNING**, and sharing points of view that add up to quality, compassionate care. Through our non profit foundation, we have provided scholarship grants to deserving Nursing students every year for the past 20 years and have graduated several hundred students. We sponsor critical Community projects like feeding the homeless, Medical Missions, contributing to the Red Cross and other Church Organizations in time of disasters such as typhoons and hurricanes. We donate instructional supplies to the University such as books, magazines, etc. We support Faculty development programs to enhance and maintain the highest standards of education. And last but not the least, we promote closer ties among our esteemed Alumni and between the Alumni and the University.

There’s an expression that teaches us, “I am part of all that I have met.” Here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that is **the gift that keeps on giving**!” (**Name two or three projects the organization planes to endorse or sponsor in the coming months**). With the added participation of new faces that will either be graduating or joining us, we hope to achieve some **BIG** goals.... in the coming months, we plan to expand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, contribute to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and provide even more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Our projections are ambitious, and it’s because we know how much they are needed in communities throughout the area that we push ourselves further each year. It’s been said that “The mass expands to fill the space.” We at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believe in constantly expanding the space in which we provide care for more and more people in need. With **YOUR** participation, our outreach can extend further than ever before.

Although the person who originally said the following is disputed, the sentiment is vital and valuable to all of us... “The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.” At\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we work together to foster an atmosphere of mentorship, friendship, and kinship. For those of you that are currently nursing students, please do not hesitate to see how you can join us.... to graduates, keep in mind that continuing a mutually supportive and nurturing connection with our organization is a wonderful way for you to expand your **knowledge, practice,** and **experience**.... and **NONE** of us will **EVER** get **ENOUGH** of **ANY** of that **GREAT STUFF**!!!

Congratulations to our graduates and we look forward to partnering with you as we work together to treat and heal the future! Thank you all!!