

January 26, 2018

## **Division of Continuing Education Graduation**

Dear DCE graduates, friends and NDU-ers

Life is a gift that we are called to discover, each day a little bit more ...that beautifully enriching process of continuous learning is essential to our survival. Know that the day any of us stops learning and acquiring skills is the day we admit our defeat, and start dying, it is the day we lose the joy of discovering the gift of life entrusted to us.

Continuous learning is not only about having a Certificate, but it is a everlasting lifelong process. Notre Dame University, through its Division of Continuing Education, seeks to fulfill its mission by providing “comprehensive quality education that fosters excellence in scholarship, lifelong learning, enlightened citizenship, human solidarity, moral integrity, and belief in God.”

We live in a digital era that offers advantages alongside challenges and threats. We live in a time characterized by swiftness, speed, and by the easy access to information and knowledge. The old classic organizational structures do not function efficiently anymore. Think of the number of new skills and competencies that are required from all of us, think of how the job that you used to do a year ago has gained a new

dimension today and how technology invaded our daily routine. That modern technology is reshaping how we learn and what we learn. Any career development requires sets of skills that employees should acquire to succeed. A continuous education program can be a mere stepping-stone to a job or a promotion... but it can become an elevator that gradually uplifts your expertise by giving you a birds-eye view perspective of things so you can rethink your attitude in a workplace...that view from the top enlarges your horizon, drives you to become creative, to take initiatives, to make decisions...to acquire good leadership and attain what goes beyond industry knowledge, this is where you reach mastering.

Today our society requires promptness and competitiveness, these are key factors to success and we cannot underestimate the importance of the human capital and the necessity of investing in its permanent development. In a corporate life, employers are, and should be more concerned with improving and updating employees' knowledge capacity, skills, competencies; but also behavioral aspect, communication capacities and leadership skills because synergy among employees is a key success factor to any corporation. Adopting a coherent formation of human capital within the organization is not optional anymore.

Efforts are needed from the employees as well; they need to acquire and

integrate new techniques, new skills, and continue keeping up with the every changing dynamics of our world, this is key to a a successful career path.

Today, as you receive your diplomas, allow me to give you some advice, on behalf of NDU:

Advancing your career in any field requires that you do much more than some courses in order to “upgrade” your knowledge and skills. What you started here, needs to go on in your daily life. Be perseverant and innovative, be curious, stay up-to-date. Work on improving your competencies every single morning, use technology to know news and developments. Integrate continuing education and lifelong learning into your daily professional life. Seek activities that advance your knowledge and skills, do not ever think that you do not need to learn anymore. lifelong learning is a mindset that you, as professionals, need to carry and embed into your daily routine.

Keep a student mindset, allow yourselves to be surprised by new discoveries at work, and have the curiosity to explore new ones. Accept the challenge of continuously improving your competencies, and on advancing your knowledge and skills. And always remember that what you learn is not only for your own benefit: share knowledge, and build ethical standards in your own practice. Be invested in your learning process. NDU offered you the necessary tools, use them, build your life, your future, your career, but also enrich yourselves in values and ethics,

this would be the most precious gift an NDUser (and you are NDUsers) can offer to this University.

We live today in a global village, and we will be living tomorrow in a digital room or maybe a capsule... Use technology to your advantage, it spares you time and space. Use it to your advantage, and do not let it enslave you. Technology should make your life easier, know how to successfully integrate it into your profession in an efficient, productive, and creative way, but do not underestimate the richness that those men and women surrounding you at your workplace and in your daily life can provide. Learn from them, for it is a factor of success to functioning as a practitioner. Do not be afraid of learning from their knowledge, skills, experiences, and resources: this is how interpersonal skills are developed.