Good Morning Everyone,

Dear Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, university staff and guests.

I am honored to speak to you on this very important day on behalf of all graduating students who have completed their studies here, or at any of the other Federation University partner’s locations.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the students here - including myself - for finally graduating. It is an achievement to be proud of. It is an achievement which marks an important step towards our future success.

I would like to thank Federation University, it’s partner providers and all staff and support services - who were directly or indirectly involved in supporting us – in providing the facilities, services and knowledge in order for us to successfully complete our degrees.

Fellow graduates - we all assume that we come to university to receive specialized knowledge and skills and to study professional subjects, which, undoubtedly, we do.

But we often forget about the knowledge acquired through experiences in the “School of life” and how attending a university and participating in its culture affords us the opportunity to enter full adulthood.

 As graduates we have all matured for having been exposed to the culture of a high-quality tertiary education. Hopefully, our university experience – both in and out of the classroom - has made us better people – wiser, smarter, kinder, more generous and open to the world, and I hope that our university is proud of the people we have become.

As we celebrate graduation, none of us knows exactly what is waiting for us out there in the big wide world; but we all must remember that there is no gain without pain, and to achieve something of value, something worthwhile or significant - hard work and struggle are necessary.

It is important that we remember that education does not stop at graduation. It is a life-long journey: a continual expansion of our knowledge and refinement of our understanding. It is a continual growth and a continuous striving to mature and see the world more clearly – to move more confidently towards our goals. To move more confidently to achieve success.

Fellow Graduates, in closing I would like to state my personal philosophy.

I believe *optimism* is the key to everything. Positivity of mind attracts positive events and brings about a healthy emotional attitude to life and our fellow human-beings.

Be optimistic about your future and faith in your abilities.

Never believe anyone who says your destiny is decided by the stars or something else – you are the only person who can build and rule your destiny.

 Always stay positive, and do not let anyone dictate what you can or can’t do - because you are the only person who knows. Your destiny is in your hands – remember this and you will achieve the unachievable.

I wish us all the best.

Thank you.