

The Education University of Hong Kong
24th Congregation Speech
Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony
Speech of the President
Professor Stephen Y.L. Cheung

Council Chairman and Members, distinguished guests, graduands, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is a joyous occasion to celebrate accomplishments. This ceremony marks a personal milestone for our graduands and pays tribute to five distinguished scholars and community leaders, namely Professor Edward Chen Kwan-yiu, Professor Christopher Day, Mr Lam Woon-kwong, Dr Pang Yiu-kai, and Mr Joseph Tsai. In recognition of their remarkable achievements and significant contributions, they will be conferred honorary doctorate degrees in the Ceremony. Shortly, our orators will present their accomplishments and I trust you will find their stories inspiring.

Dear graduands, I would like to join your professors, families and friends in congratulating you on successfully passing a robust and rigorous academic process to attain your hard-earned degrees. The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK) is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, scholarship and innovation, and we strive to make sustainable impact on societal progress and betterment. In the QS Rankings by Subject 2018, the University ranked 2nd in Asia and one of the top 10 in the world in Education.

Personally, I take great pride in the all-round achievements of our students and alumni, and they excel not just in academic fields, but also in other areas, such as sports, music and arts. I am pleased to let you know that at the Asian Games held in Jakarta this summer, our undergraduate students and alumni grabbed a total of five gold medals, accounting for over half of the total number of gold medals won by the entire Hong Kong team. These are just a few of our outstanding students in the limelight; the vast majority of our graduates are unsung heroes in the education sector and beyond, devoting themselves to shaping our future generations.

It is heartening to see you all here today at this graduation ceremony, which marks a completion as well as a beginning. The qualification you receive today is a record of what you have gained at the University, which empowers you to make a difference in society and your profession.

The journey of life is full of ups and downs. Whatever challenges you may face in this complex world, I encourage you to be passionate about life; be proactive in seeking out new knowledge; be perseverant in your quest for excellence; and be positive in the face of adversity. And my message to you today can be summed up by “4 Ps”: **be passionate, be proactive, be perseverant and be positive.**

As we get caught up in the demands of life, it's easy to lose sight of our goals. The challenge is to stay passionate. Delight in what you do and take pleasure in knowing that you are making an impact that has the capacity to transform lives and society.

Second, be proactive in seeking out new knowledge, exploring creative solutions and reaching out to others. The rapid pace of change, in particular, renders lifelong learning vital and calls for innovative ways of applying your subject knowledge. To remain competitive, it is important to embrace new ideas, diverse perspectives, and different disciplines and experiences.

Third, be perseverant, especially when doubt creeps in. Even the best-laid plans may not work out as envisaged, but this does not mean failure. Take a moment for yourself and trust yourself. Put in greater efforts, analyse the situation and make adjustments accordingly.

Finally, be positive in the face of challenges. We affect, and are affected by the people we meet. So, develop positive thinking, adopt a positive attitude and promote a sense of positivity for people around you. It is this kind of optimism that helps transform impossible into possible. Your knowledge and skills are only part of the equation of success. Our attitude can lead to action or inaction, it is our choice.

As you move forward on your professional path which combines lifelong learning and fresh perspectives to deliver meaningful contributions, your ties with the University remain steadfast. We welcome you to return to EdUHK to share your experience with us.

I would like to wish you all a fascinating career and a rewarding journey of continuous discovery.

Thank you.