

Good afternoon, esteemed faculty, proud families, and most importantly, the graduates of the nursing class of 2023.

Today, as we gather to celebrate your achievements, I am filled with admiration and hope for the future of healthcare. You have chosen a profession that is both challenging and profoundly rewarding--a path that requires not only skill and knowledge but also compassion and empathy. Throughout your journey, you have demonstrated hard work, dedication, and resilience. You have faced long nights of studying, demanding clinical rotations, and a global pandemic that tested the very core of healthcare systems. Yet, you persevered with unwavering determination.

As you step into your roles as nurses, remember that you are not just healers of bodies, but also of spirits. Each patient you encounter will bring their own story and their own struggles. Listen to them, connect with them, and provide comfort and understanding in their times of need. Empathy is your most powerful tool. In your hands, it will build bridges, foster trust, and offer hope. Your kindness and compassion will leave lasting impressions on the lives you touch.

Today, we celebrate your accomplishments and the bright future that awaits you. Go forward with confidence, knowing that you have the power to make a difference every single day.

Congratulations, Class of 2023. The nursing world awaits you with open arms, and I am certain you will make it brighter and more compassionate. Thank you.