

“True·Good·Beauty”

**The 2011 Sino-American Joint Program Commencement Ceremony at
the Ningbo Institute of Technology (NIT), Zhejiang, China
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President Jin, Party Secretary Fei, Vice President Yang, distinguished faculty and staff, proud parents, and especially, the graduates of the University of Indianapolis–Ningbo Institute of Technology Joint Program Cohort 7, Class of 2011. I am deeply honored to bring greetings today on behalf of the president of the University of Indianapolis, Dr. Beverley Pitts, and on behalf of the University’s faculty. President Pitts offers her best wishes for a wonderful commencement ceremony and acknowledges her plan to visit your campus in September. I am also pleased to introduce Dr. John Langdon, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Langdon has been working closely with me on our joint program, and I am glad Dr. Langdon is here today.

This is our joint program’s fourth commencement. Again, it is with great pride and a sense of privilege that I participate in this ceremony at NIT on this day of celebration. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to work closely with NIT leaders, faculty, and staff over the last few years in the pursuit of a common goal: making our Sino-American joint program one of the best in China.

I especially would like to mention that I had the opportunity to work with President Jin on several occasions this year and I admire his vision and support for our international collaboration. We were much honored that he led the NIT delegation to attend the Commencement and the Senior Banquet held at the University of Indianapolis on May 7. He met many of our NIT joint program students, and he was very pleased with the way these students have been “transformed.” President Jin has pledged to expand our two universities’ collaboration. He has a good vision for the future of NIT, and he stressed that our joint program has played a very important strategic role in the delivery of high-quality education for the NIT students. On behalf of the University of Indianapolis, I also pledge to President Jin and all of you that we will rise to the horizon together. We will provide for our joint program students the best education anyone can imagine having.

I also have been working closely with Professor Xu Weimin, who has just retired from his distinguished posts at NIT as the former president and the party secretary in April. I was very fortunate to have the opportunities to work with Professor Xu in the last few years on our joint program, and most

recently, I was privileged to co-author a book with him on service-learning to be published by the esteemed Zhejiang University Press. In addition, we will co-chair the Fourth International Symposium on Service-Learning, which will be held at NIT in September. I would like to take this opportunity to express my admiration for Professor Xu's scholarship and leadership.

This is a very special year for NIT. It is the year of NIT's 10th anniversary. Dear graduates, you are part of NIT's growth and its success story. You should be proud of NIT, as NIT is proud of you.

While celebrating your graduation, we must remember that there are many people who are behind you and beside you. They work with you and they support you. We must express our deepest gratitude to your parents, teachers, and close friends. Without their assistance, caring, and encouragement, you would not have accomplished what you have accomplished today.

My dear graduates, you are ready to step onto your new life path. Whether you will continue to pursue your graduate studies, to get married, or to enter into the job market, you will always encounter change in your living environment. You have received two years of American education at the University of Indianapolis or with American professors at NIT. Our educational goals have been to educate you to embrace creativity, critical thinking, performance, and social responsibility. You have attained these goals, and we hope you can start putting your new tools to practical use. They will become your life tools. With these tools, you shall be able to make a difference, not only in your own life but also in the community where you live, where you work, and where you visit as a tourist. With your newly gained knowledge, skills, and most of all, the values that you have learned or reinforced, you are bound to ask a question, "How can I make a better place to live, to work, or to visit?"

People speak of going out and changing the world; this is silly. One person does not change the world. One person can, however, change the community in which he or she lives—the small world in which a person operates. A person can easily have an effect on the local community, the town, the city, the neighborhood in which he or she resides. How can you make a difference? How can you improve the lives of those around you with the gift that you have been given? These are some of the questions you should ask yourself.

There are many goals people have in life: graduating from college is one of them. You have done this today. Getting a good job is another goal for many: this is something that many of you will strive to do in the coming months. A goal that is not shared by many, to society's detriment, is striving to improve the community where you live. What is interesting is that these goals are linked inextricably. Students with college degrees get good jobs; people with good jobs have more resources available to make a difference in the community. You should not only be the locomotive but also the transformer of your community. Many of you experienced community-service projects while you were at UIndy. NIT also has started to launch these projects in the last few years. We hope you carry on the spirit of service even after graduation. Your community needs your expertise and experience in service.

The phrase “making a difference in the community” has been referenced multiple times already. What does this actually entail, though? How does one make a difference? Help the needy, volunteer, recycle, and donate items to others in more need than you. These are not grandiose actions, but they have the effect of making a difference in others’ lives, which is more important than an action that serves only to gain notoriety. John F. Kennedy, an American president in the 1960s, once stated, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” This is a powerful quotation; it signifies that we, as citizens of a country and especially as college graduates, have obligations to that country, and more importantly, to the other inhabitants that reside here with us.

There is a global problem with the youth today. In America and in China, we call your generation the “me generation.” Young people care about themselves almost too much. Young people tend to be self-oriented. Instead of this “me generation,” we should seek to be other- and service-oriented. Thinking of others and acting to improve others’ lives is crucial to the development and growth of a modern society. In this competitive world, it is inevitable for your generation to become self-oriented. But today, I would like to share with you a quotation that reflects my life philosophy. It may prompt you to think deeply or puzzle you: “Always think of yourself less, but do not think less of yourself.” Dharma Master Cheng Yen (Tzu Chi), who was one of *Time* magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2011, said, “To give selflessly with a genuine heart is to be true. To contribute to others unconditionally is to be good. When one is both true and good, beauty is radiated.” I hope you will be that “beautiful person” someday.

You are very fortunate to have received two sets of education (Chinese and American) and to have received two sets of degrees (NIT and UIndy). You have the freedom to choose. What you have chosen today will become part of you tomorrow. We hope you will make the best use of your dual assets and to continue on the path of greater learning, commitment to serving your community, and resilience to the ever-changing and challenging world.

Once again, what a great joy it is to be here with all of you, celebrating the great achievements of those who are graduating on this occasion. You will be the movers and shakers and the promising leaders in a society where you will encounter many things that you have learned on both campuses. We have high hopes for you.

As I have told many of you, we will plan a class reunion when I turn 80, which will be only ten years from now. When that time comes, you will prove to me that you have embraced the best from the two educational systems and that you have put your knowledge to work. You also will share with me what you have done for your community and how you have transformed your neighborhood into a better place to live. You will show me what you accomplished in those ten years.

I am longing for that day to come. I am simply so pleased to be part of your higher education journey. I am proud of you. Best wishes and warm congratulations to you all.

Thank you.

“真·善·美”

二零一一年宁波理工学院中美班毕业典礼演讲中文稿

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尊敬的金院长，费书记，杨副院长，各位杰出的教职员工，各位家长，尤其是各位宁波理工学院—印第安纳波利斯大学中美联合班的 07 届毕业生同学们：

我今天非常荣幸地代表印第安纳波利斯大学校长 Dr. Beverley Pitts 和所有教师们向大家致以最真挚的问候。Pitts 校长衷心祝愿我们有一个隆重的毕业典礼，并且她计划于今年九月访问宁波理工学院。另外，我非常荣幸地向大家介绍印第安纳波利斯大学文理学院副院长 Dr. John Langdon。他负责中美班的通识教育课程。很高兴 Dr. Langdon 也远道陪我来参加今天的毕业典礼。

今天是我们中美班第四届毕业典礼。能够参加今天的盛典，我感到非常荣幸和自豪。我深深地感谢这些年能有机会与宁波理工的领导，教职工一起工作。我们紧密合作就是为了一个共同的目标：把我们的中美合作项目办成中国最优秀的合作项目之一。

我特别要指出今年有幸与金院长进行了几次印象深刻的会谈，我非常崇拜他在高等教育的远见与感谢他对我们两校合作的支持。金校长曾亲自率领宁波理工代表团参加了五月七日在印第安纳波利斯大学举行的毕业典礼及晚上的毕业生庆宴。期间，金校长看望了来自中美合作项目的学生，他对同学们在各方面的转变与成长感到非常满意。金院长承诺将扩大两方学校的合作。他对宁波理工的未来寄予了厚望。并且强调，我们的合作项目在给予理工学子优质教育方面具有非常重要的战略性的意义。在这里，我谨代表美国印第安纳波利斯大学，也向金院长和各位承诺，我们将一起促进这个项目的提升，并努力为联合培养班所有的学生提供所能想象的最优质的教育。

我与刚刚在四月份退休的浙江大学宁波理工学院前院长和书记许为民教授也一直有密切的工作关系，在过去的几年里，我非常有幸能与他一同致力于我们的合作项目，最近，我与他合著的一本关于服务—学习的论著即将由颇有声望的浙江大学出版社出版。此外，我们将共同主持今年九月份在宁波理工学院举行的第四届服务—学习国际研讨会。我将借此机会表达我对徐教授专业造诣以及领导能力的敬仰。

对于宁波理工来说，今年是非常特殊的一年，因为它是宁波理工成立十周年。亲爱的毕业生同学们，你们是见证宁波理工不断成长并走向成功的一份子。你们应以理工为荣，就像理工以你们为傲一般。

当欢腾地庆祝你们的毕业时，我们应该饮水思源。我们必须牢记有许多人站在你们后面以及身边。他们的辛勤耕耘，他们的不懈努力造就了今天的你们。因此，我们必须向你们的父母，老师，以及好友表达最真挚的感谢。如果没有他们的帮助，关心和鼓励，你们将无法取得今天的成就。

我亲爱的毕业生同学们，你们将由此步入另一个崭新的人生阶段。无论你们是继续深造，结婚，或是走入职场，你们将会遭遇生活环境的变化。你们已经接受了在印第安纳波利斯大学的教育或者在宁波理工美方教授给予的学习指导。而我们的教学目标是把你们培养成具有创新的能力，批判性思维的能力，出色的执行力和强烈的社会责任感的人。你们已经达到了这个目标，我们希望你们能开始将所学到的新的专业技巧与知识运用到实际中去。它们将成为你们以后的生存工具。拥有了这些工具，不仅会对你们今后的生活产生影响，同时将造福于你们所居住的社区，所工作的单位，或一般的周围环境。当你们获取新的知识，技能，特别是这两年中所学的或曾经再加强的一些传统的价值观，你们一定会问一个问题，“我怎样可以创造一个更好的居住，工作，或是一般的周围环境？”

当人们高谈阔论要去改变这个大世界，这似乎不是很脚踏实地的想法。一个人不能改变整个大世界，但是可以改变他们生活中所能掌握的小世界。一个人比较容易地对其所生活的社区、小镇、城市、街坊产生影响。也就是说，从小世界一点一滴地做起，然后再像波涛一样向整个世界传播你想要改善大世界的理想。那么，你将怎样产生影响？你将怎样利用所学改善周围人的生活呢？

人们会有许多人生目标，比如，从大学毕业是其中之一。你们今天已经完成了这一步。找到一份好工作是许多同学的另一个目标，也是在接下来的几个月努力去做的事情。努力改善所居住的社区既努力改善社会不正义的事情应该是你们各位年轻人所应有的公民责任。有趣的是，这些目标其实是互相关联的。学生借着大学文凭找到了不错的工作，有着不错工作的人们有更多的可利用资源去影响社区。你不仅应是社区的领头人，更应该是一个改革者。你们当中的许多人在美国体验过社区服务学习，宁波理工也发起了类似项目。我们希望你们在毕业后还能一直延续着服务精神。你们的社区需要你们在服务上的专长与经验。

“能对你的社区产生影响”这句话已经被引用了多次。但是，这句话的真谛是什么？一个人如何能对社会产生积极的影响？帮助弱者、自愿、循环利用并捐献一些物品给那些更需要帮助的人。这不是浮夸表面的举动，它们将对别人的生活产生影响，它们比那些只是为了赢得一些虚名的行为更重要。约翰·肯尼迪，一位二十世纪六十年代的美国总统，曾经说过，“不要去问你的国家能为你做什么—而是去问你能为这个国家做什么。”这是一个很有影响力的名言，它意味着，作为这个国家的公民，特别是作为大学毕业生，我们对国家承担着责任，更重要的是，承担着对居住在我们身边的人的责任。这些责任不仅提供人们衣食住行的需求，它也包括道德意识的提升，例如：环保的意识以及各种商业道德的尊行。

当今，有一个全球性的问题摆在我们年轻人的面前。在中国和美国，我们称你们这代人为“自我中心的一代”。青年人有着强烈的自我意识，更关注自己，倾向于自我为中心。我们应该寻求关心他人，服务他人的价值观，取代自我为中心的思想。替他人着想并致力于提高他人的生活水平对一个现代文明社会的发展与成长是至关重要的，这也是我们对当代知识分子的期待。在这个竞争激烈的社会，你们会不可避免地偏重自我。但是今天，我想与你们分享一句反映我的人生哲学的名言。它可能促使你们深入思考也可能使你们感到困惑，“总是少考虑自己一点，但是不要看轻你自己。”英文的说法是“Always think yourself less, but never think less of yourself!” 被时代杂志评为 2011 年度全世界最具影响力的一百人之一的台湾佛教大师证严上人曾经说过“带着一颗真诚的心去无私奉献才是真。无条件地帮助别人是善。当一个人拥有“真”和“善”，那么就散发着“美”。”我希望有一天你们会成为那个“美”的人。成为一位追求真善美的人。这也是家父给我的座右铭。我今天与各位毕业生同学们共享。

你们非常幸运能接受中美两种体系的教育并且取得了两所学校的学位证书。你们可以自由地选择，而你们今天所选择的将成为你们未来的一部分。我希望你们要充分利用所拥有的中美的双重无形财富，继续你们的求学深造和承诺服务社区的道路，从而适应这个日息万变的世界，去追

求与创造一个真·善·美的世界。

我还想说：和你们大家一起庆祝毕业生同学们所取得的成绩是一件多么愉快的事情啊。你们将会成为社会发展的推动者，发起者，未来的领导，在这个社会中，你们将会遇到许多挑战。也许你们会对在中美两国所学习的提出质疑。质疑我如何将所学习的回馈到真实的社会。其实今天你们踏出校园之后将会遇到比在校期间所曾经遇到的挑战更艰难的挑战。但是我相信，如果你们可以能够秉承真善美的理念的话，这些挑战都能够一一克服的。我们对你们寄予厚望。

就像我曾经跟你们许多人说过的一样，再过十年，在我八十岁耄耋之年时，我们会策划一个中美班的同学会聚餐。那时，你们将会证明给我看你们汲取这两种教育体系的精华并将其运用到工作中去。你们同时也会和我分享你们为自己的社区做了什么以及如何把邻近社区改造成一个更宜居住及生活的优美环境的许多故事。我迫不及待地来聆听你们未来十年的成就。我会在美国彼岸天天为你们祈福。

我非常高兴成为你们接受中美高等教育旅程的伙伴与监护人。我为你们感到骄傲。再次，向你们表达最衷心的祝福和最热烈的庆贺！记住，你们是有能力与毅力的，你们将以“真善美”的心灵与行动去创造一个更美好的社会。我期待那一天的来临。

谢谢大家。



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