

Speech to the Graduates
University of Indianapolis–
Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang
Joint University Program
June 18, 2017

Phylis Lan Lin, Associate Vice President for International Partnerships

President Jin, members of the administration, faculty members, parents and friends of the graduates, and graduates: Those of us representing the University of Indianapolis want to thank you for your friendship and generous hospitality on this most significant occasion. I am proud to represent the president of the university, Dr. Robert L. Manuel, and Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Stephen Kolison, and to bring you their greetings on this special occasion.

I also wish to congratulate NIT on its recent distinction. We were so pleased to learn recently that the Ningbo Institute of Technology has once more been ranked number one among China's independent colleges, and now Ningbo Institute of Technology has been renamed Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University–Ningbo. You have become one of the tier-one universities in China. Congratulations! It is clear that such an achievement is most difficult to attain, and earning this distinction within just a few years of your establishment is impressive. For this, we must also applaud President Jin's leadership.

I would like to speak now to the graduates of the University of Indianapolis–Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University, Joint Program 2017 graduates.

Milestones like today are remembered. The pictures, special dinners, and family gatherings are the traditional signals that something big has happened. You will always remember this event because it marks the culmination of years of study and preparation.

You have made many sacrifices as you have ascended this path to acquiring knowledge and skills, and you should be as proud, as we are, of your accomplishments.

Your parents and families also made great sacrifices for you. You, with their help, have accomplished something that few in the world accomplish—earning two degrees, one of which is in English, which is not your native language.

Twenty-seven of you flew over the Pacific Ocean two years ago to gain a new learning experience on the campus of the University of Indianapolis, and all of us are very proud of what you accomplished in a new learning environment. You have made it!

While all of you may feel as though you have climbed a mountain, I encourage you to remember that this milestone is not the summit. More than half of you have planned to continue your academic journey to graduate school. Some of you will start careers right away, and a few of you have decided to take a short break and attend graduate school in the near future. Whatever you may be moving toward, it is clear that you have set a new milestone in your lives.

I hope that your time in the joint program has nurtured your love of learning for learning's sake and that you will remain devoted to your quest to know more. It's my hope that you will continue on your intellectual journeys.

A university education opens a door. When you have a university degree and have studied at two great universities in two languages, you have created great opportunity for your future and for your family.

As we congratulate you on your accomplishments, my colleagues and I wear these traditional symbols of learning—the caps, gowns, and hoods that represent the long tradition of university learning—to remind you that you are our next generation of scholars and that we believe you will be the movers and shakers in both China and America in the years to come.

We charge you to use your gifts and talents wisely, to continue on the path of learning, and to remember that you come from the University of Indianapolis and the Zhejiang University in Ningbo, where education for service requires all of us to use our talents for the betterment of mankind.

We charge you to be the leaders who will help us learn that, as a global society, we depend on each other. The world has become ever more interconnected and interdependent. With your bilingual and bicultural education experience, your creative and innovative minds and with the cross cultural competence you have acquired, you are indeed in a good position – or well equipped for success. On this special occasion, I would like to charge you with cultivating an additional trait while you continue to nurture your leadership skills and knowledge for your future work and family life—that is, embracing and cultivating humility.

Although the concept of humility has been rooted in Asian teachings of the great philosopher Confucius and his followers, by Buddha's teaching, and by other world religions including Christianity and Islam, humility is seldom included in what is taught in higher education. We have taught you to be assertive, competitive, and to use high technology. We tend to forget that one of the most important concepts of humanity is humility. Confucius said, "Humility is the basic foundation of all virtues; admitting what you don't know is knowing." This suggests that the best leaders are humble leaders. In our Asian teaching, self-growth must be instilled first by self-cultivation and self-awareness. All great leaders possess humility in their action and deeds. Mahatma Gandhi has advised us: "It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. Nonviolence is

impossible without humility.” The exercise of humility can be reflected and exemplified in many ways in a leader’s behavior. For example: eliciting feedback and listening to others’ opinions and ideas with sincerity;; focusing on the needs of other people;; admitting mistakes and taking responsibility for undesirable outcomes; engaging in conscious self-reflection;; empowering others and creating leaders; supporting the team instrumentally; delegating and empowering subordinates; acknowledging thankfulness;; and appreciating being blessed. Humility is relationship-building; it is not about self. Only through the practice of humility can one really become an *authentic* and *servant* leader. Over the years, I have come to believe that practicing humility does not mean belittling yourself but fosters inner strength. To practice humility is ultimately to have the ability to recognize who you are and to make yourself an instrument for change.

Once you step outside of the college campus and into the real world, you will encounter many new challenges. Almost certainly, you may encounter adversities and failures. Please remember, adversities and failures are not losses; they are a matter of mindset. By having humility in your mindset, you will have new perspectives and will bounce back from your encounters with adversities and failures. Success is not power or money; success is built upon many pillars, including wisdom, hard work, service, and most importantly, a mindset of humility. Humility will lead you to be better and greater. Once you practice and cultivate the virtue of humility, you will also arrive at a new concept of success.

Today, we pause in your honor, and we wish you success. Commencement is such a special occasion because it enables us to take time out to mark your achievement with the pomp and circumstance it deserves. On a personal level, it is also a time for me to reflect on what I have learned from you. Working with you has reminded me to “Realize your inadequacy in knowledge after learning, and acknowledge your questions of knowledge after teaching” (“教然後知困；學然後知不足”). Learning and teaching are intertwined and are reciprocal (“教學相長”). I have taught you a lot, and I have learned a lot from you as well. I am glad we have grown together. We have learned together to be wiser and older!

I am most happy to be here again at Ningbo Institute of Technology, our sister institution, to celebrate not only your graduation but also the strong program that we have built together and that has brought this opportunity to you and to the students who will follow in your footsteps.

You’ve shown yourselves to be dedicated, committed, persistent, engaging, passionate, resilient, and possessing of a positive attitude, integrity, vision, and dedication to service. These are qualities of good leaders that our world desperately needs for good leaders. I hope you will add the practice of humility to your skill set. These are qualities expected of graduates of our joint program. I hope that you will take great pride in being a graduate of the joint program, as we take great pride in you and your achievements. I hope, too, that you will consider both the Ningbo Institute of Technology and the University of Indianapolis as your alma maters. I thank you for allowing me to be part of your celebration. I wish you the best. Congratulations. I love you all. Thank you

浙江大学宁波理工学院中美班毕业典礼致辞

2017年6月18日

蓝采凤

印第安纳波利斯大学国际合作协理副校长

尊敬的金院长，尊敬的各位领导、教师、学生家长及亲朋好友们、亲爱的同学们：

大家好！

在今天这个普天同庆的日子里，我代表印第安纳波利斯大学的全体同仁，向你们致以衷心的感谢，感谢你们的友谊，感谢你们的盛情款待。能够代表校长罗伯特·L·曼努埃尔（Robert L. Manuel）博士、常务副校长兼教务长史蒂芬·考利森（Stephen Kolison）博士在这个特别的时刻给大家带来诚挚的问候，我感到无比荣幸。

同时，我还要为宁波理工学院最近获得的成就表示衷心的祝贺。宁波理工学院再次在中国的独立学院中一本学府，已正式成为浙江大学—宁波校区，将跻身于中国一流大学之中。我们表示衷心的祝贺！毋庸置疑，取得这样的成就是非常困难的，但是宁波理工学院成立仅仅十几年后，就获得如此巨大的成功，实在是令人振奋。为此，我们应当为金院长的领导才能致以热烈的掌声。

我很荣幸能够给印第安纳波利斯—浙江大学宁波理工学院中外合作办学项目2017届毕业生致辞。

我们将铭记今天这个新里程碑的日子。拍照留念、毕业生晚宴和家庭聚会常常预示着重大事件的到来。这一时刻将会铭记于心，因为它显示了你们多年寒窗苦读的累积成果。

在这条求学求知的道路上，你们付出了许许多多的努力，你们应当为自己获得的成就感到自豪，就像我们也为你们感到自豪一样。

这一路走来，你们的父母和家人也为你们做出了许许多多的牺牲。在他们的帮助下，你们取得了少数人才能获得的巨大成就——毕业时获得中外双学位，其中一个英语授课而非母语授课。

两年前，你们一行 27 人飞越了太平洋，踏入了印第安纳波利斯大学，开启了新的求学之旅。今天，你们已经在这新的学习环境中取得了巨大的成就，我们感到无比自豪。你们成就了自己！

若你们觉得自己已经跨越了一座大山，我要鼓励你们，今天的里程碑并非顶峰。你们之中半数以上的人将继续求学，完成研究生学业，而有的同学即将参加工作，开创自己的事业，还有少部分同学打算先短暂休息，而后继续就读研究生。无论你们将要奔向何方，请记住，你们的人生正朝着新的里程碑迈进。

我希望合作办学项目已经激发了你们对学习的热情，而且，求知若渴的性情能一路陪伴你们，帮助你们在求知的道路上勇往直前。祝愿你们能继续观赏求知路上的怡人美景。

大学教育为你们打开了一扇门。当你们在两所优秀学府，在双语环境下获得了本科学历时，你们就已经为你们的未来、家人的未来，奠定了坚实的基础。

在为你们表示祝贺之时，我和同事们都已穿上了传统的学士服——代表大学学习悠久传统的帽子、长袍以及披肩——你们是未来的栋梁，我们相信你们将会成长为在中美两国都极具影响力的专家学者。

我们要求你们能正确运用自己的禀赋与才能，继续奔跑在求知的道路上，并时刻铭记自己是来自于印第安纳波利斯大学和浙江大学宁波理工学院的学生，来自这两所学校的所有学生都应肩负尽己所能、造福人类的使命。

我们要求你们努力成为未来的年轻领导人。你们要了解在这个全球化的时代，我们是相互依存的。世界各国的联系已经变得越来越紧密。凭借你们的双语能力、跨国学习经历、创新思维和熟知两地文化传统，你们具有非常大的优势——为迎接成功做好了准备。在今天这个特殊的时刻，我们要求你们为了今后的工作和家庭，在培养领导才能的同时，也磨砺自己的品格——学会谦逊。

虽然谦逊早已植根于亚洲伟大的哲学家孔子及其学生的教学活动中，以及佛教的教化中，以及其他世界宗教，包括基督教和伊斯兰教的传教中，但是在高等教育中却很少培养学生谦逊的品格。我们已经培养你们自信以及不懈奋斗的品格，传授了你们高新技术知识。但我们却忘了培养你们人类最重要的品格之一——谦逊。孔子曾说：“三人行，必有我师。知之为知之，不知为不知，是知也。”这表明了优秀的领导者应具备谦逊的品格。在亚洲的教学观念中，要实现自我成长，必先要有自我意识并提升自身修养。所有伟大的领导人在行为举止上都处处透露着谦逊。圣雄甘地曾劝诫我们：“对自己的智慧过分自信是不明智的，缺乏谦卑，以非暴力的抗议方式成功是无法实现的。”谦逊可以从领导者的行为举止等多个方面中体现出来。例如，真诚地寻求他人的建议，聆听他人的意见和想法；急人所急；勇于承认错误，主动承担责任；善于反省；任人唯贤；拥护并支持自己的团队；信任下属，授权下属，让他们各尽所能；心怀感恩；对别人的祝福抱有感激之情等。谦逊是需要培养的，而非人之本性。只有不断地培养、践行谦逊的品质，才能成为真正的仆人领袖。多年来，我开始相信培养谦逊的品格并不意味贬低自己，而是培养自己的内在力量。培养谦逊的品格，是为了认清自己，并实现自我蜕变。

一旦踏出校门，走进社会，你们将会面临许多新的挑战，其中，逆境和失败是难以避免的。但请记住，逆境和失败实非损失，而只是一种心态。保持谦逊的态度，你们将会打开全新的视角，并走出逆境，走出失败。金钱与权力并不意味着成功；获得成功需要许多支撑条件，包括智慧、勤劳、服务，最重要的是保持谦逊的心态。谦逊能够让你们变得越来越优秀，越来越伟大。一旦你们培养和践行了谦逊的美德，你们将达到更高境界的成功。

今天，我们驻足于此，为你们的荣誉喝彩，并预祝你们获得成功。毕业典礼是一个神圣的时刻，因为我们从百忙之中抽出时间来见证你们的成就，但这一切都是值得的。就个人而言，这是我们反思从你们身上学习到了什么时刻。与你们一起成长，让我意识到“教然后知困；学然后知不足”。教学相长。我教授了你们许多知识，但也从你们身上学习到了很多。能与大家一起成长，我感到很开心，因为我们能够一起学习，一起变得睿智，一起变成成熟！

很高兴再次来到宁波理工学院，我们的姐妹院校，一起庆祝毕业典礼，一起庆祝我们共同建立的合作办学项目。该项目为你们，以及你们的学弟学妹带来了难得的学习机会。

你们已经展现出了敬业、忠诚、执着、热情、坚韧、积极、诚信、富有远见、并致力于为人民服务的良好风貌。这些都是世界各国迫切需要的优秀领导人应当具备的素质。我希望你们会把谦逊也加入其中，这是我们对合作办学项目毕业生的期望。我希望你们会为成为合作办学项目的毕业生而感到骄傲，因为你们是我们的骄傲。我还希望，你们会把宁波理工学院和印第安纳波利斯大学都视为你们的母校。能参加你们的毕业典礼，我感到十分高兴，衷心祝愿各位一切顺利！祝贺大家，我关怀你们。谢谢