

The 2015 Sino-American Joint Program Commencement Ceremony at The Ningbo Institute of Technology (NIT), Zhejiang, China

Representatives from University of Indianapolis: Dr. Phylis Lan Lin, Associate Vice President for International Partnerships, Dr. William R. Dynes, Associate Dean of the Shaheen College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Karen Newman, Professor of English, and Mr. Mark Akers, Professor of Business

President Jin, Vice President Mei, distinguished faculty and staff, delegates from UIndy—Dr. Bill Dynes, Dr. Karen Newman, and Professor Mark Akers, proud parents, and especially, graduates of the University of Indianapolis-Ningbo Institute of Technology Joint Program Class of 2015. I am deeply privileged to have the opportunity to bring congratulations and best wishes from Dr. Robert Manuel, President of the University of Indianapolis, and all the faculty and administrators who share in your delight and excitement on this important day. The relationship between our universities is a warm and meaningful one, and it is appropriate that we take a few moments here today to recognize what you, the graduating seniors, have accomplished, and to send you forward with our support, our encouragement, and our pride.

That pride, I am sure, is a pale reflection of that felt by all of the parents, the families, and the friends of those who are graduating today, and I want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for everything that you have done and all that you have given. I know that I speak for the graduates themselves, as well as for the faculty, staff, and administrators of both the Ningbo Institute of Technology and the University of Indianapolis when I say thank you for the support, the encouragement, the occasional threats, perhaps, and the confidence with which you have helped bring us to this day.

Although I have visited NIT for about 38 times, each time I have visited here in Ningbo, I have come away increasingly impressed by the commitment of all whom I meet here, a commitment to a unique education that spans the globe. The international education that you graduates have pursued has imposed unusual burdens upon you, asking you to learn new language, ask questions from new perspectives, collaborate with new people, and consider new values. In a world that technology is making increasingly smaller, you have been asked to broaden your horizons, and clearly you have responded to those challenges with rigor and determination.

It is appropriate, I think, to take this opportunity to reflect on the value of the kind of education you have worked so hard to pursue. An international education demonstrates the degree to which our two universities are looking to the future. In a world that often values familiar answers, you have learned to ask fresh questions and to seek unusual possibilities. In a world that too often programs us to repetitive patterns, you have learned to seek out a variety of experiences and to embrace challenges. And in a world that seems to celebrate familiarity, you have learned to appreciate the diversity of hopes,

fears, and dreams that make us the complex and confusing individuals that we are.

For us, then, these are the three chief purposes of an international education: (1) we ask new questions, (2) we seek new experiences, and (3) we discern ourselves more clearly.

Our world is changing more rapidly than it ever has before. Familiar answers and time-tested methodologies leave us prepared for yesterday, but of course we are headed into tomorrow. This does not mean that we can forget history or that we should ignore the past; we know that we cannot build anything that will last without a solid foundation. However, we also know that the world we are building together will require tools that have not yet been forged, systems that have not yet been developed, questions that have not yet been asked. Your international education has taught you to ask those questions and has prepared you to seek answers that right now we may not even be able to imagine.

Going beyond the familiar can be frightening, but it can also be exciting, and can take us to places that we never expected or understood. The second value of an international education, I believe, is that it encourages and prepares us for those adventures. You have been introduced to people and ideas from all over the globe, and I hope that this has inspired you to see the whole world as yours. It is where you will do business, it is where you will continue the friendships you have begun here and where you will forge new ones, and it is where the consequences of the decisions that you make will be played out.

Such networks of homes, of families and communities, suggest the third important value of an international education, and that is the opportunity to understand ourselves more fully. The more we look beyond ourselves, the better equipped we are to look honestly and critically at ourselves. Valuing diversity does not mean that we surrender our individuality, and it does not mean that anyone's ideas and beliefs are necessarily equivalent to anyone else's. However, we can, on the other hand, appreciate the range of people whom we meet, in all the chaos of their different thoughts, feelings, beliefs, hopes, fears, and needs, because out of that chaos we may find new ways to articulate who we are, where our roots are, and where we hope to grow.

An international education, then, is a lens that permits us both to see beyond our familiar borders and deeply into ourselves. As students of the world, you have been encouraged to ask new questions, to pursue new experiences and opportunities, and to join new communities. But be aware you are not finished with these tasks. Graduating today, you have accomplished a meaningful and significant goal, but of course that simply means that there are more goals to come, more discoveries for you to make. Today is an opportunity for us to reflect upon what you have achieved, but it is also an opportunity for us to dream about what more lies before you.

Fortunately, the evidence is clear that your education has prepared you to pursue those dreams and opportunities. Around the world, when employers are surveyed about the kinds of people they prefer to hire, the same kinds of answers come back again and again. Employers are looking for people know how to do critical thinking, know how to perform know the importance of creativity and innovation, and who have a sense of social in the

workplace. They are looking for people who can accept new responsibilities and who can grow in their jobs as the workplace evolves. And they are looking for people who can interact effectively with a wide range of customers, clients, and collaborators. Sound familiar? Employers are looking for people like you who have high IQ and EQ.

However, it would be inappropriate for me to claim that your international education has been intended to prepare you simply to get a good job, or even to discover a rewarding career. Those goals are important. But the real work before you today is to continue building upon the foundations you have already created, becoming the best citizens, the best family members, and the best people you can be.

My fellow graduates, you have received both Chinese and American education; you have experienced both Chinese and American cultures. I hope someday you will be able to contribute to your country from what you have learned in our joint program. China needs you. In fact, America needs you too. It is your generation who will transform the world to a better place for us to live. It is your generation who will have the ability to bring peace to the world. Today, I am not only proud of you, I am also having high expectation on you. You have learned three things from your education in the last four years: (1) you have learned how to be inquisitive; (2) you have learned new experiences, and (3) you have grown and mature emotionally, physically, and intellectually. Lastly, I must share with you my concerns about our joint program. We have been very successful with our joint program in the last 11 years. But we are launching into a new chapter in our joint program with new guidelines from the Minister of Education. There are many new challenges in higher education in China and America. We must embrace innovative ideas and approaches in making our international education more productive, more comprehensive, and more integrative with resources from China and America. NIT and UIndy must work even closer with each other. There are new opportunities and promises for us to deliver and even more solid education so that our joint program students can continue to benefit from the education in both China and America. You have come so far, and so much is before you. I hope that you will continue to consider the Ningbo Institute of Technology and the University of Indianapolis your alma maters.

In summary, my fellow graduates, you have come so far, and there is much more before you. I hope you will continue to consider NIT and UIndy your alma maters. Thank you for letting me be a small part in all that you have accomplished, and for letting me share in this opportunity to celebrate you for all that you have achieved. Remember, our joint program cannot succeed unless you succeed. With that note, a big hug and a big congratulations to you all. I will miss you and I know Dr. Karen Newman, Professor Mark Akers, and Dr. Bill Dynes will miss you too. Please keep in touch. You know we are proud of you and we care about you very much. Thank you and Congratulations! 祝福各位前途似锦，前途无量。我会想念你们，我与你们同在。

**Remarks by Phylis Lan Lin, at Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, China
June 14, 2015**

浙江大学宁波理工学院2015届中美班学生毕业典礼

印第安那波利斯大学协理副校长 蓝采风教授
印第安那波利斯大学沙欣文理学院副院长 威廉·戴恩斯教授

尊敬的费英勤书记、金伟良院长、杨建刚副院长、梅乐和副院长、全体教职工和学生家长，2015届中美班的毕业生们。

我代表印第安那波利斯大学校长罗伯特·曼纽尔教授、全体教职工，向你们表示最诚挚的祝贺与问候，我十分荣幸在今天这个重要的日子里，与你们一同分享兴奋与喜悦。我们两校之间一直保持着友好、深厚的合作关系，所以今天在这里，我们将用一小段时间来回顾在座的毕业生们所取得的成就，我们将一如既往地支持、鼓励你们继续往前走，为你们感到自豪。

我知道，这种自豪不能与各位毕业生的家长、亲人、朋友的相比，但我还是想借此机会表达我们的感谢，感谢你们所做的、所给予的一切。当我表达这份感谢时，我不仅代表全体毕业生，还代表了中美两校的全体教职工和行政人员，各位家长的支持、鼓励、偶尔的施压以及对我们的信心帮助我们走到今天。

每次造访宁波，我都对在这里碰到的每一个人所做出的奉献有着愈加深刻的印象。他们奉献于一种遍布全球的独特教学，这种国际化教学是在座的全体毕业生所追求的教学模式，恰恰是这样的教育模式使你们感受到非同寻常的压力，让你们学习一门新的语言，学习从新视角提出问题，学习与新认识的人合作，思考新的价值观。科技使这个世界变得越来越小，一直以来你们被要求去拓展视野，当然你们也带着这份对自己的苛求和决心，应对着每一项挑战。

我认为今天是一个难得的机会来回顾一下你们所追求的这种教学的价值。即便在今天，国际化教学也很少见，并且非同一般，它展示了两校对未来的期待。当今世界常常被标准答案和死记硬背所充斥，你们却学着提出新的问题，探寻不一样的可能性。当今世界常常让我们重复着相同的模式，你们却学习收获更多的经验，迎接挑战。当今世界似乎更加青睐于狭隘与相似的观点，你们却学习去欣赏不同的希望、恐惧、梦想，使我们这些复杂、纠结的个体活出自己的风格。

对我们而言，国际化教学的三个主要目的便是：提出新的问题、探寻新的经历以及更清晰地认识自己。

当今，任何一场毕业典礼都会提到的事实是，我们的世界以前所未有的速度飞快地变化着。那些固定的答案和经时间筛选下来的方法论使我们不断为昨天做准备，当然，我们迈向的却是明天。这并不代表我们就可以忘记历史或是无视过去，我们都知道，没有坚固的基础，我们是不可能创造出任何会存留下来的事物。然而，我们也知道，我们共同创造的世界所借助的工具尚未锻造出来、所需要的系统尚未开发出来、所面临的问题尚未提出来。经过国际化教育的培养，你们已经学会了提问，并准备好寻找那些我们现在甚至无法想象的答案。

离开熟知的环境着实令人生畏，但也能振奋人心，将把我们带去从未预料和毫不熟悉的境地。我认为国际化教育的第二个重要性是鼓励我们，让我们为冒险做好准备。你已经了解了世界各地的人和观念，我希望你将意识到整个世界都是你的，

在那里你可以驰骋商海，维系旧识、结交新友，你做出的选择终将会尘埃落定。我们不会忘记自己的家园，而是学会在世界各地数百万家庭的大背景下洞悉人间百态。

家园，家庭和社区之间的纽带，揭示了国际化教育的第三个重要性，即提供给我们一个充分了解自己的机会。我们越期待超越自己，就越能用诚实和苛刻的眼光审视自己。重视多元化并不意味着我们要放弃自己的个性，也不是每个人的思想和信仰都统一无异。但我们可以换个角度看，欣赏我们遇到的人，他们有着不同的想法、感受、信念、希望、恐惧与需要，正因为得自这些，我们才能发掘新的方式来表达我们是谁、来自何方和希望在哪里成长。

国际化教育是一个透镜，可以使我们加深对自己的了解。作为现代的大学生，你们应该去提出新的问题，追逐新的体验与机遇，加入新的群体。如果我没有指出你们尚未完成这些任务，那将是我的疏忽。今天，你们毕业了；你们已经完成了一项意义重大的目标，但是很显然对于你们而言，未来将会有更多的目标需要实现，更多的探索去完成。今天对于你们，既是一个机会去回顾自己所取得的成就，也是一个新的起点去梦想未来的道路。

幸运的是，显然你们所接受的教育已准备好让你们去追逐梦想和机遇。在世界上，当雇主被问到他们喜欢雇佣哪种类型的员工时，这些相同的特质被一再地重复。他们在寻找那些能为企业贡献创新精神的人，那些有责任心并能随着企业的发展一同进步的人，那些善于和各类消费者、客户和同事有效沟通的人。听起来是否非常耳熟？他们寻找的正是像你们这样的人！

然而，如果我说国际化教育的目的仅仅是为了使你们有一个好的工作，或者找到一份高收入的职业，那是不恰当的。是的，这些目标对你来说非常重要，也许对于那些帮助过你完成今天学业的父母、家人和朋友来说更为重要。但是在这之前，你更需要紧迫地去完成的是巩固你的基础，努力成为一个好公民，一个好家人，一个最好的自己。你受教育的意义就是能够使你不断地掌握新的本领，不断挑战自己，并且走向世界的前沿。如果你受的教育真的有意义，那么它将让你发掘已经拥有的工具去探索新的事物，去挑战你自己，去参加新的社团，建立延伸到世界的一种合作关系。相比较之前，你已经前进了这么多，这么远。希望你们能够一直牢记你们的母校——浙江大学宁波理工学院与印第安那波利斯大学。感谢你让我成为你们人生的一小部分，让我有机会一同分享和庆祝你们成长至今所获得的成就。祝贺你们！

--蓝采风致辞--

六月十四日，二零一五年