
Good evening, Members of the Institute, MPA 9 students, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be speaking to you today on behalf of the MPA Alumni. I hope that you feel as excited as I am to be part of this great moment. I'd like to draw your attention for a few minutes to share with you how important this day is to all of us.

I was asked by FHR to do a motivational speech and asked myself why, because I didn't graduate with a distinction, I had an overall score of 7.6; and saw my name only once on the grades cup (that's a cup where you get your name printed on, every time you score the highest grade for an exam), It is something to look forward to. To be honest, I only scored a high grade that time because the class really liked the professor. I could be restless in class, asked all kinds of questions and I liked to have fun.

Then I thought about the fact that I never had to do a resit for an exam, I was always driven and tried to study very hard (despite the fact that I didn't always keep to the "4 hours study a day" rule of Mr. LiMaPo). In my mind I went back to my graduation day, March 29th 2014, an exciting day that finally came. That day I fell, and hit my head badly around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. I was rushed to the emergency room with deep cuts and bruises on my forehead. We had to be at the institute at 5 o'clock for our graduation pictures (I'm not in any of them...)

I called Charissa, our program manager, and told her that I would still attend the ceremony in time to do the graduation speech. Yeah, I was the one who was scheduled to do the graduation speech and it **had to** be me in the emergency room. I left the emergency room at 6, hurried over to my house, applied make-up on only half of my face and rushed to FHR with 4 bandages on my head to do my speech.

If that's not motivation, I don't know what is.

I was determined to do the speech on behalf of my fellow students. While lying in the emergency room I thought about all I had worked for, all my efforts, the

late nights, the example that I wanted to set for my kids, the money I paid my babysitter. I also thought about the mentors, the professors who effortlessly tried to develop our/my professional skills trigger our intellect, let us speak our mind so they could have a better sense on how to guide us through their lectures. I thought about Mr. LiMaPo, a brilliant mentor, who effortlessly was involved in every lecture, every grade and supplied us with apples. *“An apple a day, keeps the doctor away”*.

Do you know that when we came in late for a lecture, we had to pay a fee? And that our class-elder, who happened to be a woman, could easily function in the military as a sergeant. That we had different personalities in class, annoying students, funny, bold, quiet, nerdy, super intelligent, or just the know it all. Please look forward to all of that. Look around you; these are going to be not only your friends or colleagues, but also your source of inspiration to achieve your goals.... your TEAM!

TEAM stands for: **“Together Each Accomplishes More”**, and that’s exactly what will have to happen. Not only will you be working individually but also in groups where you will have the challenge to bring together different kinds of people with different perspectives to participate in one subject, remember *“None of us is as smart as all of us”*.

Education is the core for our society and human beings. It runs like a highway through our lives. It takes us from early years learning, through primary and secondary school, to tertiary education and life-long learning of skills and knowledge. For every person, education provides the skills for better employment, improved health, life opportunities, welfare and wellbeing.

Today, you are taking a new step into a world where higher education is undergoing rapid and dramatic transformation. We live in an era when knowledge is growing in importance in addressing the world’s most pressing problems, when technology promises incredible possibilities, when global forces increasingly shape our lives and work, when traditional intellectual fields are shifting and converging, and when public expectations and demands of higher education are intensifying.

An educated workforce will allow us to effectively pursue our goals, Visions and missions of our people, organizations and societies. So education is in our society’s best interest. I cannot stress enough the important role the LiMaPo institute has in further educating our people. This is something we all have to

support and that is why you're here today. So make sure that you grow, change, learn, while inspiring others to do so too.

Confucius once said: "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence."

I hope your time at FHR changes your life. It certainly changed mine. It may get difficult at times but keep going; it will be well worth it in the end.

Good luck with your studies and have fun.