

**Clarke International University**



**THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH: 9TH GRADUATION**

VERSION 9

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**Dr. Rose Clarke Nanyonga**

## The Vice Chancellor's Speech: 9th Graduation

The Chancellor: Bishop (The Rt. Rev Dr.) Zac Niringiye

The Chair of Council: Professor Moses Galukande

The Proprietors of CIU: Dr. and Mrs. Clarke

Members of the CIU Council and Administration

Representatives from the regulatory bodies

Academic Representatives from other institutions

Invited Guests, Students, Alumni

Ladies and Gentlemen

**It gives** me great joy to join the Chancellor in warmly welcoming you all to Clarke International University and our 9<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony for the CIU Class of 2018.

A very special welcome to the graduands, the parents, families, friends and your colleagues who have joined us on this memorable occasion.

Today, we have nearly 300 graduands who will receive their certificates, diplomas, and degrees. A big round of applause to the parents and guardians who sacrificed a lot to ensure these students can graduate despite some financial challenges.

Our Success and the success of these graduands stems in a large part from a dedicated team of outstanding leadership at every level of CIU. Thank you CIU Administrators, Deans, HODs, Faculty and Staff for your contributions to the student's journey of learning.

I would like to briefly highlight a few of the University's recent achievements and developments:

### GRANTS AND RESEARCH

- **First Score: The NORAD Grant:** Chancellor sir, allow me to lead with our most recent achievement this year: Clarke International University, in collaboration with Laboremus Uganda and Fontes Foundation have just secured a \$2 million grant from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The purpose of this grant is to bring world-class technology and entrepreneurial education to the youth

in Uganda. We know that the unemployment rate for people with a university education currently stands at 11.8% (UBOS, 2016) and more than 700,000 individuals are released into the labour market every year (MoFinance, 2015). CIU is committed to producing top notch graduates who can enter the market job ready. At the same time, we recognize the critical need for those graduates who are already in the market but are dimmed unemployable. The funded project is a focused IT accelerated learning course that will suitably equip nearly **1000** trainees to become software craftsmen/women able to contribute to the ICT sector industry growth. The program will run under the Lift256 Academy at the School of Business and Applied Technology (SoBAT) and represents the aspiration of the program to lift the nation towards becoming a global player in the technology ecosystem. Thank you to NORAD and our partners. And thank you to the winning team lead by **Michael Niyitegeka** for the leadership and tireless efforts to secure this win for CIU.

- **Second Score: The HEPI Grant:** in October this year, Makerere University (Lead Partner) with Clarke International University, Busitema University, and Kabaale University won the prestigious NIH Health Professional Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI) grant worth nearly 4 Million Dollars. The broad goal of the grant, which will be managed at Makerere College of Health Sciences, is to strengthen health professional education and address major health needs in Uganda including HIV/AIDS, Non-Communicable Diseases and Maternal and Child Health conditions through a number of instructional and institutional reforms among all participating institutions. We are delighted with this milestone collaboration as this also marks the first NIH collaborative grant for CIU. This project will be funded for 5 years.
- **Third Score: The Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning and Change:** Chancellor sir, I am also pleased to report that Pfizer, in collaboration with the Royal College of Nursing is partnering with CIU to improve patient outcomes through supporting measurable learning and change strategies. In particular, the Pfizer Independent Grant for Learning and Change allows 350 CIU students, faculty and alumni to access over 200 interactive learning modules for a period of not more than two years. The modules are designed to help nurses and clinical medicine students to enhance their clinical and soft skills. The RCNi Learning is a gold standard interactive programme of

self-study modules to help enable faculty, students and qualified nurses to develop important nursing skills and deliver the best possible patient care. This demonstrates our continued commitment to excellence in learning, teaching and practice.

## REBRAND AND DIVERSIFY

- On March 6<sup>th</sup> 2018 the university officially adopted the new name Clarke International University during a successful launch presided over by the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda **Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga**. Solidifying our new brand has allowed us to strengthen our competitive advantage and diversify the university core business to include health, business and applied technology.

## LEGACIES AND IMPACT (ALUMNI REPORTS)

- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year since we embarked on a journey of making a difference by bridging the gaps in healthcare education through research and training. I am proud to report that with class of 2018, we have graduated over 2400 healthcare providers.
- Chancellor sir: The graduands before you are part of the primary evidence of the incredible work of the staff and faculty of CIU and our continuing tradition of academic excellence. The quality and relevance of our programs can be measured in the work that alumni are doing around the world. A recent Alumni Tracer survey indicates that of the 260 alumni who responded to the survey:
  - 93% are gainfully employed;
  - 90% are employed in the field of their study;
  - 81% secured a job at graduation or within 6 months of graduating.
  - 99% feel that CIU prepared them adequately for their current career
  - 95% feel that CIU prepared them well for the following skills: Problem Solving, Teamwork, Leadership, Technology Literacy, Life-long Learning, Critical Thinking, Taking Initiative, Ethics and Accountability, Social Skills, Research

Skills, and Advocacy Skills. This is a true testimony and strength of the CIU model of learning, teaching, research, and community.

- This year: at least 107 Alumni have won performance awards; 18 have received independent research grants; 15 have received seed funding for their projects; and 22 received scholarships to pursue graduate studies.
- In addition: 145 alumni reported to be working in leadership positions where they are influencing change and transformation in their organizations with 71% serving as committee members for a local organization, while 61% have been instrumental in establishing a community-based organization to meet the health needs of their communities.
- This legacy serves as a strong foundation for our future work. And I am pleased that these graduands will continue to strengthen the impact of the university through their continued scholarship and practice.

## RESEARCH & COMMUNITY

- Our faculty and students have done much more than teaching and learning. A few examples:
- This year we have published 23 peer review research articles in medium to high impact journals exceeding last year by 7 articles. And we haven't ended the year yet!
- Our faculty are adding value beyond the CIU community: For example: Professor Okiria was appointed the **Chairperson of the Allied Health Professionals Council** this year; Michael Niyitegeka was appointed as a Committee Member of the Identified Information Technology Enabled Services at the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance; The Vice Chancellor was appointed as a Technical advisor on the national steering committee for the Nursing Now Campaign, Ministry of Health. These are just a few ways in which the CIU family adds value.
- CIU is also a major partner in organizing the first ever African Conference on Viral Hepatitis which is scheduled to take place in June 2019.

- We have also had a robust community outreach program in various parts of the country: Kisugu, Namuwongo, Nakawa, Mitooma, Kansanga, Nakigoza, Rubaga, and Mbarara. We have focused our programs on:
  - Sickle Cell Awareness Campaign in Collaboration with the Uganda Sickle Cell Rescue Foundation;
  - Maternal and Sexual Reproductive Health
  - And Health promotion campaigns targeting enhancing Self-Management Practices for persons living with Non-communicable diseases

## NEW PROGRAMS AT CIU

- Gained ICDL Certification: CIU became the second University in Uganda to attain ICDL accreditation. ICDL is the world's leading computer skills certification. To date, more than 14 million people have engaged with the ICDL program, in over 100 countries. The ICDL program defines the skills and competencies necessary to use a computer and common computer applications. CIU now has the opportunity to offer certification to many more students and professionals across the country.
- Launched Cisco Networking Academy: In addition, CIU is pioneering cyber security training in Uganda with the launch of a cisco networking academy focusing on cyber security under the ICT department
  - LIFT256 ACADEMY as noted above
  - The MBA now accredited

## STUDENT SERVICES

- This year we have increased our scholarship funds and currently have 26 students on the scholarship program (**that is 10 more from last year**). I know that the need is much greater than we currently can afford.
- Nearly more than 40% of students who are admitted to degree programs cannot afford the cost of a university education. Of those who manage to start, 20% often struggle to complete on time due to lack of sustained funding to program completion.

- The level of program interruptions students encounter as a result of lack of resources is staggering. I would therefore, like to applaud the parents and guardians of the students who are graduating today for working so hard to keep these grandaunts in school. Relatedly, I would like to make a special appeal to all well-wishers to continue to support the scholarship program at CIU which will allow us to increase financial aid for talented students who desperately need it.

## **GRATITUDE**

- We continue to rely on the goodwill of so many. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Founders, Government Partners (NCHE, UNMC, The Allied Health Professionals Council, Other relevant professional Councils, Min of Health, Min of Education and Sports, the VCF, Collaborating Teaching Institutions for their continued support.
- Special thanks to our Development and Community partners (Clarke Group, YWAM, IHK, HASTECH, Microsoft4Africa, the Insurance Institute of Uganda, HealthPartners UG & USA, Lugei Foundation, Uganda Sickle Cell Rescue Foundation, ABACUS Business School, Laboremus Uganda, Fontes Foundation, Makerere, Busitema, Kabaale, Mount Sinai, and Yale universities...etc.), Academic Institutions and our friends for their continued support.
- I also thank the University Council, Senate and Senior Management, Staff and Students for supporting the reforming efforts to consolidate CIU's brand. We are well on our way to becoming great. To do so, our staff have been working very hard and have continued to embrace a lot of changes and I wish to make special acknowledgement of this.
- I wish to reassure members of the community that the University has strong foundations and is deeply engaged and continues to make noticeable contributions to the development of this country.
- Special thanks to the alumni who have contributed to the building fund this year.
- I wish to thank the Graduation Logistics Team lead by Ms. Phiona Bitariho and the Registrar. Thank you to the student ambassadors, to the Police, our administrators

and support staff, and our suppliers for working around the clock to ensure this day goes on without major challenges.

## TO THE GRADUANDS

Please stand with me as we pay tribute to a fallen student: Dr. Ibrahim Gwaluka who lost his life last week. A moment of silence please. Our heartfelt condolences again to the family, friends, and classmates of Dr. Ibra. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

**Our graduands:** Congratulations! Thank you for trusting us with your learning journey. The mission of the university is: *To prepare students for global leadership and to be catalysts for transformation.* With this mission, you have a moral imperative to respond to the entrenched needs of this nation and to carry the society forward.

- You must lead even in the absence of a title
- Lead with values and principles that will withstand the overwhelming burden of compromise
- Lead with your inspiring innovations, talent and contributions—they will make this a better nation
- Lead by creating a path where there is none. If the door has not opened for you, you must continue knocking
- Lead with resilience and courage; integrity and humility
- Lead by taking ownership, responsibility and being accountable
- Lead by empowering, celebrating, and enabling others to greatness.
- Lead by being well informed and continuing to challenge yourself through lifelong learning
- Lead with empathy and with compassion
- Lead by nurturing your soul, heart and spirit and by remembering you are human
- Lead by making a difference

**Let me now ask your teaching faculty and deans to stand with me as we commission you into the world of work. This is our hope for you:**

- We believe that our graduates are those who will carry the torch of knowledge, science and practice and will help ignite new efforts to transform our healthcare systems and communities.
- We hope that your time at CIU has not only allowed you to earn a degree but that you have also blossomed intellectually, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
- We hope that you will be able to overcome the poverty of hope and integrity that plagues many young professionals in our nation.
- We hope that your experience of struggle is not a deterrent to your success. Rather, let it be the motivation for discovering your grit, resilience, talent and ability.
- We hope you will use technology and the rich and expansive literature and knowledge available to you to transform your practice and scholarship.
- We hope you will be excellent ambassadors of CIU and make us proud by your strong, innovative, ethical and excellent contributions.

We know that you are ready to take on any challenge.

Every successful journey, however stellar, is often not achieved alone. So, congratulations again to your families and friends who have generously and sometimes selflessly supported you in your academic pursuits. I hope that you will be able to reward them with more than just a degree.

Thank you all. And God Bless Dr. Rose Clarke Nanyonga, Vice Chancellor

(December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018)