

President's Address at DCE Graduation

October 8, 2015

Dear DCE and FIFA/CIES Graduates,

Today, you celebrate the end of an educational path you chose. A path that comes out of your own personal choice, based on a work and life experience unique to each one of you. Some of you are already holders of a university degree, and some have chosen to engage into a higher education experience directly through the Division of Continuing Education. You have earned a certificate that tells the community to which you belong, that you have acquired, through the combined work and study experience, a set of skills of value wherever you are and wherever you choose to be in the future.

This is the first graduation ceremony for DCE students and the second event for FIFA/CIES students. But a graduation, at the end of the day, is always a first for you who are earning a degree. Each graduation is unique to you. Each one is another unique step in your life.

Dear DCE students, you are often referred to as adult learners. People refer to the path you followed as non-formal, or non-traditional education. You earned a certificate or a diploma. As President of NDU, I sign all degrees issued by the university, your certificates and diplomas, as well as bachelor and master degrees. By the act of signing, I am declaring that we put the same care, the same passion, the exact same quality, in the education we deliver

to all our students, be they in traditional education, or following a non-traditional path. NDU believes in lifelong learning opportunities, as a matter of fact, NDU embraced continuing education from the early days of its inception; it remains committed to it in its adopted mission statement, and in everyday practice. We are now engaged in a renovation project of the DCE buildings to keep on providing learners like you with the space they deserve, a space that befits NDU. Our commitment strives to develop continuing higher education at NDU into an essential pillar of the development of our societies. We strive for it to become a place where you will find what individuals search in continued learning: the need for continual improvement, the addition of new skills, but also the pleasure of discovery, the joy of culture in its different facets, and a hub of never-ending creativity.

I take this opportunity to welcome our partners Formatech and New Horizons with whom we have graduated students equipped with much needed skills in Information Technology.

Partnerships are essentials in the ever-shrinking world in which we are living. We strive to build collaborations with other institutions of higher education at the national, regional, and international level. This is best exemplified with the graduation of our 2nd cohort of students in the NDU/CIES Sports Management Certificate Program, a program we are offering in partnership with the *Centre International d'Etudes du Sport*, represented by Mr. Vincent Monnier, who made the trip again from Switzerland to share with us those moments. FIFA is the sponsor of the Program from which you are graduating; Football is the most popular sports on planet

Earth, a discipline best represented by the President of the Lebanese Football Federation. Both Mr. Haidar and Mr. Monnier are examples of sports managers on the national and international scene.

Today, you join sixteen other Lebanese holders of this international certificate, some of whom are now holding very high positions at the regional level in sports management. We are sure that you will follow in their footsteps. Sports in Lebanon will be in better hands, knowing that some fine young women and men have worked hard to raise their management know-how to international standards; standards NDU values and upholds.

Sports develop our bodies and strengthen the mind. They have also defined a much-valued moral trait when we talk of sportsmanship: A term that brings to mind ethics, fairness, and respect for your competitors; fundamental values to the development of the human person.

To all our graduates of the day I say, uphold the values of sportsmanship in your life and your career. And remember to mind awakened and learning, life, after all, is the best school of continuing education.

Congratulations to all of you.

Fr. Walid Moussa