

University of South Australia International Graduation Occasional Address – Karyn Kent December 2015

- Dr Ian Gould AM, Chancellor
 - Mr Jim McDowell, Chancellor elect
 - Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President
 - Members of the University Council
 - Doctors, Emeritus Professors, Fellows, and Senior Management and staff of the University
 - Graduands
 - Ladies and Gentleman
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- It is an absolute privilege to be addressing you today, and I thank you for the opportunity.
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- While I hope many of the graduands here are aware of StudyAdelaide and have taken advantage of the events and activities that we hold for international students, for the friends, family and guests in the audience who aren't, we are responsible for promoting Adelaide as an international study destination, working closely with our University partners to attract students here from all over the world.
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- Therefore, we are delighted that you, the graduands here today, chose Adelaide as the place for your overseas study experience, and I commend your choice of university, the University of South Australia.

- I acknowledge your courage and determination to continue your education away from family and friends, and for some of you, in an English speaking country when English is not your first language.
- I have lived overseas twice in my career, but I had it relatively easy, both times were in a country where English was widely spoken.
- The first time I lived overseas was in America, and this was before social media, before email was widely used, so I communicated with family and friends by writing letters, and maybe the occasional phone call if I could afford it! It's hard to imagine that now!
- With Facebook, WhatsApp, Wechat, Instagram (and the list goes on) you have the opportunity to stay connected instantly which I'm sure has been a great comfort.
- Facebook only emerged 11 years ago, and yet today, if it was a country, Facebook would be the largest country in the world with a population of over 1.5 billion.
- And what did we do before we had Google to help us answer every possible question, important questions when moving to a new city such as such as 'which nights are the shops open late in Adelaide?' or 'where can I find authentic Chinese, Malaysia, Indonesian food in Adelaide?'
- But back to the reason we are all here today, your graduation. It's an exciting time in your life. The world is changing at a great rate, dominated by technology and

information, and ongoing education and skills development are critical now more than ever.

- Some of you may know exactly the career you wish to pursue, and seek employment opportunities within your chosen field, or even continue studying.
- For others in the room today, you may have studied for a particular field but end up in an entirely different career.
- This is what happened to me. I commenced an economics degree with the thought of going on to study law. I finished my degree, chose not to study law and instead went on to study tourism. I never anticipated that it would become the fulfilling career that it has, or that it would lead me to promoting Adelaide to international students.
- One of the most valuable experiences offered to me was an internship as part of the tourism diploma, which was what took me to America for 12 months. This was an amazing opportunity that I am convinced was the foundation for my career today, through the experience gained and the networks made.
- Therefore, be open to opportunities and possibilities that you had never imagined; you never know where it may take you.
- Make the most of every stage of your career, not just for the skills you will develop, but also the contacts you will make and the opportunity to make an impression.

- Because while the world is changing at a rapid pace and ongoing personal development is important, I believe there are qualities that will stand the test of time and put you in the best possible position to be successful in your chosen career. These qualities include passion, professionalism, integrity and dedication.
- One of my favourite aspects of this role is that I have the opportunity to meet you, the students (and now graduands) and you all certainly have the passion and dedication to succeed, otherwise you wouldn't be here today. I love hearing about your journey to be here and your dreams for the future - your enthusiasm and warmth never ceases to amaze me.
- For those of you who aim to stay in South Australia, we are honoured that you have chosen to make South Australia your home for the immediate future, and we will no doubt benefit from the contribution you will make to our economy and community. I look forward to crossing paths with you out in the workforce.
- To the graduands who are returning home, or moving elsewhere, I hope you take with you many wonderful memories of your time in South Australia, and that you become life-long advocates for the State.
- And I have a favour to ask you, which is to continue to share your positive experiences in Adelaide with friends and family back home, as we need all of you to help us spread the word about Adelaide.

- And to all of you, please stay in touch!
- We are so proud of the achievements that former international students have made, and we will want to share your successes with both prospective students and South Australians alike.
- Congratulations to all of you who are graduating today. I have no doubt you have made many sacrifices, worked extremely hard and you now have a University of South Australia qualification to show for it.
- The University has an outstanding reputation for graduate outcomes, and you are about to reap the rewards of your investment in your future.
- I wish you every success, thank you and good luck!