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COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY-SCHOOL OF ALLIED
HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROFESSIONS

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COMMUNITY-POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITIZEN-PROFESSIONAL

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE PRESENT AT THIS 1973
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY OF THE SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH AND SOCIAL
PROFESSIONS. I HAVE WATCHED WITH INTEREST THE RAPID EXPANSION
AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL AND IT IS EXCITING NOW TO BE ABLE
TO TALK WITH YOU WHO ARE PREPARING TO BEGIN WORK WITH THE KNOW-
LEDGE AND EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE GAINED HERE.

SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1968, THE SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH
AND SOCIAL PROFESSIONS HAS EXPANDED TO EMBRACE NINE DISTINCT
FIELDS OF PROFESSIONAL HELP. YOUR FACULTY IS COMPOSED OF SOME
FORTY-FIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO NOW TEACH OVER FIVE HUNDRED FULL-TIME
STUDENTS. IN JUST FIVE YEARS, THE SCHOOL HAS BECOME EQUIPPED
TO GRADUATE DEDICATED STUDENTS LIKE THOSE OF YOU HERE TODAY;
WELL-QUALIFIED TO ABLY HANDLE THE COMPLEXITIES OF ALLIED HEALTH
AND SOCIAL WORK.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT
OF YOU ARE FROM NORTH CAROLINA AND SOME SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT
FROM THE EASTERN PART OF THE STATE. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THIS
WITH THE FACT THAT SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF PREVIOUS GRADUATES

REMAINED IN NORTH CAROLINA, IT IS FEASIBLE TO SUGGEST THAT GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROFESSIONS DO ACTUALLY SERVE NORTH CAROLINIANS AND I COMMEND YOU FOR THIS SERVICE AND PERSONALLY THANK YOU.

NO DOUBT YOU ARE ALL WELL AWARE OF YOUR FINE QUALIFICATIONS, YET GRADUATION DAY IS A SUITABLE TIME TO REVIEW THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND I WOULD LIKE TO DO SO NOW. NO MATTER WHICH DEGREE YOU HAVE SOUGHT OR WHICH DEPARTMENT YOU HAVE ENTERED, YOU HAVE ALL PROVIDED YOURSELVES WITH A SOLIDLY BASED FOUNDATION OF KNOWLEDGE BEGINNING WITH YOUR CORE COURSES. FROM THE ABSTRACT THEORY OF PERSPECTIVES IN HEALTH CARE TO THE BASIC FACTS OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY AND GROSS ANATOMY, YOU HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO MANY FACETS AND PROCEDURES OF HEALTH CARE. THIS WIDE RANGE OF COURSES PROVIDED AN INITIAL INCENTIVE AND LED YOU ON TO THE MORE SPECIFIC COURSES OF YOUR PARTICULAR FIELD OF STUDY.

MANY OF YOU CHOSE THE FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES. YOUR VARIOUS STUDIES HAVE NOW PREPARED YOU FOR PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS IN A VARIETY OF AREAS. YOUR OWN, INDIVIDUAL ABILITIES COMBINED WITH THE FINE EDUCATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED HERE WILL ENABLE YOU TO WORK WITHIN A WIDE RANGE OF HUMAN SERVICE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS.

THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GRADUATING AS SPEECH PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS HAVE ATTAINED A COMPETENCE IN BASIC EVALUATIVE PROCEDURES AND SHOULD NOW BE ADEPT IN MANAGING ALL COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS. EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SOCIETY

AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

SOME OF YOU ARE NOW QUALIFIED OCCUPATIONAL OR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS AND YOUR ABILITY TO AID AND REHABILITATE INDIVIDUALS IS A VITALLY NEEDED SERVICE AT THIS TIME. AS THERAPISTS, YOU MUST NOT ONLY DECIDE WHAT PROGRAM WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE FOR A PATIENT, BUT YOU MUST ALSO PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT YOUR DECISION TO THE PATIENT'S BEST ADVANTAGE. THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE REHABILITATION COUNSELORS MUST ALSO WORK WITH HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS AND STRIVE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REACH HIGHER LEVELS OF FUNCTIONING.

ALSO AMONG YOU TODAY ARE ENVIRONMENTALISTS, MEDICAL RECORD ADMINISTRATORS AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS. THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH OF THESE PROFESSIONAL FIELDS HAS ALREADY BEEN DEMONSTRATED AND YOUR EDUCATION IN THESE AREAS HAS CERTAINLY REVEALED TO YOU WHERE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES LIE.

REGARDLESS OF THE FIELD YOU HAVE CHOSEN, YOU ARE ALL HEADED IN THE DIRECTION OF PROGRESSIVE SERVICE AND IN SUCH CAPACITY, WILL HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OTHERS.

ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE EACH WORKED HARD FOR YOUR DEGREE, I MIGHT REMIND YOU THAT YOUR GRADUATION TODAY IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE CONCERN AND EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY OTHERS. THROUGH THE WORKINGS OF THE 1969 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FUNDS FOR NEW PROGRAMS AND A NEW BUILDING TO HOUSE THE SCHOOL WERE PROVIDED. THE EDUCATION WHICH YOU POSSESS TODAY IS DUE TO THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THOSE LEGISLATORS AND THE MANY NORTH CAROLINIANS WHO SENT THEM TO THE LEGISLATURE.

IN ORDER FOR THE SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROFESSIONS TO MAINTAIN ITS HIGH STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE, SINCERE DEDICATION AND SUSTAINED EFFORT ARE NEEDED AND IT IS IN THIS REGARD THAT YOU HERE TODAY, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A GROUP, CAN EVENTUALLY REPAY YOUR SCHOOL FOR THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

AS A GRADUATE OF THIS SCHOOL, INSTINCTIVE LOYALTY WILL LEAD YOU TO ITS SUPPORT AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE ALWAYS WATCHFUL OF WAYS IN WHICH YOU MAY LEND SUCH SUPPORT TO PROMOTING ITS ADVANCEMENT. OF A TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF APPROXIMATELY \$275,000, ABOUT 93 PERCENT DERIVES FROM GRANTS AND CONTRACTS. THIS LEAVES ONLY 7 PERCENT OF FUNDING FROM DIRECT STATE SUPPORT AND THUS, YOU CANNOT FAIL TO SEE THAT TREMENDOUS NEED FOR CONSISTENT ATTENTION TO FUNDING SOURCES. AS A GRADUATE, YOU CAN HELP YOUR SCHOOL BY MAINTAINING A CONCERN AND INTEREST WHICH WILL LEAD YOU TO CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ON ITS BEHALF.

IN ADDITION TO THIS SUPPORT, AS CITIZEN-PROFESSIONALS, YOU WILL HAVE NUMEROUS OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES AND I REMIND YOU NOW OF ONLY A FEW. OBVIOUSLY, IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE IN YOUR PROFESSION, YOU SHOULD TAKE PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF YOUR COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY AS THEY RELATE TO THE FUNCTIONS OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE. YOU SHOULD ALSO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SEE THAT THE INTERESTS OF YOUR GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY AREA ARE WELL REPRESENTED.

AS A FORMER STATE LEGISLATOR, I HAVE EXPERIENCED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS--OF ITS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION AND ITS POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA. I CANNOT ENCOURAGE YOU ENOUGH TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AT ALL LEVELS. AS A PROFESSIONAL PERSON, YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO KEEP YOUR LEGISLATORS INFORMED OF YOUR VIEWS AND YOU MUST CONSTANTLY PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS. DO NOT BE AFRAID TO BE "POLITICAL" FOR ALL DECISIONS WHICH REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION OF ANY KIND ARE "POLITICAL" AND SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE INPUTS OF THE ELECTORATE EXPRESSION.

WITH THESE OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN MIND, YOU WILL CERTAINLY BE CAPABLE OF HOLDING KNOWLEDGEABLE OPINIONS AND MAKING WISE DECISIONS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY CAN BE IMMENSE AND WITH YOUR SUSTAINED EFFORT AND PROVEN ABILITY, YOU WILL RENDER GREAT SERVICE TO MANY INDIVIDUALS.