

Gratitude Speech

Today, March 12th is an exciting day. It's our graduation day! I would like to give a big congratulations to everyone for being here now.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the graduates and faculty for being a part of our celebration. I am glad that all of us were able to have this graduation ceremony at Fukuoka Jo Gakuin Junior College together.

In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to our parents, family members, teachers, friends, upper and lower classmates who have all given us many opportunities to learn. Thank you so much for everything.

How do you think you have grown up in your two years of college life? Were you able to realize some of your potential since you entered this school? Two years ago, we entered Fukuoka Jo Gakuin Junior College with hopes and dreams. At first, we were not accustomed to college life, and some of us lived alone for the first time, so we spent our days here full of anxiety. However, didn't you have a fulfilling college life thanks to your friends and teachers who you met at school? The time we spent studying together was very fun, meaningful, and extremely luxurious. While we feel joy at graduation, perhaps we cannot help but feel that we are separating from our friends. The time spent in this learning space is surely a precious memory.

Let me share some of my own experiences while being a student at Fukuoka Jo Gakuin. I went to study abroad twice. At first, I was worried about living abroad for the first time, but thanks to my classmates, teachers and host family I was able to have fulfilling experiences. I learned the importance of being able to gain something by acting on my own. By acting on my own, I was able to experience things that I couldn't experience in Japan. I was able to discover my potential by challenging myself. Of course, I made a lot of mistakes and things did not always go well, but I was not afraid of failure and I always thought it was better to regret what I had done than what I hadn't. You may regret some things by acting on your own, but if you miss a chance to do something, it may never come again.

After today, we have to go our own ways and continue to grow. There will always be times when things don't go well or you feel depressed or want to run away from your situation. However, to gain something, you have to keep trying. By challenging something, it becomes your own. Successful and unsuccessful experiences will help you. People cannot gain everything from only successes. You can also grow by making mistakes, but you have to take action to make those mistakes. Challenges may

be big or small, but it doesn't matter if you try. The difference between challenging things and not challenging things is very significant and important.

Over the last several months, the influence of the Coronavirus has made it impossible for us to be together like in our first year of college. I think there are people who are worried about their futures because the current reality is different from the future we had previously imagined. However, you have to do what you can and must do from now on. There are a lot of people who are confused and worried about situations that have never happened before. All the while, let's challenge ourselves to what we can and must do, and challenge ourselves to develop a new self, a new future.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with the words from a great man. They are the words from Walt Disney who you all know.

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Thank you and good luck.

March the 12th, 2021

N.F.