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PRESS RELEASE

Graduates encouraged to learn from mistakes

Suva, Fiji Islands. Medical, public health, nursing and allied health students who graduated today from the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences were encouraged to take risks and learn from mistakes.

Chief Guest, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Civil Service, Ms Bernadette Welch told graduates that they needed to allow themselves to make mistakes and learn from them.

“You also need to be honest when things go wrong so that they can be dealt with and the organisation can participate in the learning. If you don't do this you will become scared of taking risks and once that happens your personal growth will be stunted,” she said.

Ms Welch said somehow intolerance for mistakes has made its way into the workplace and this intolerance encourages people to hide mistakes, risks and issues and be less open and honest.

“This is wrong. Don't become a part of this culture,” she added.

A total of 44 students graduated from Fiji National University's College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences in a ceremony this morning at Novotel, Lami out of whom there were four Masters and 15 Postgraduate Diploma and Certificate awardees.

These graduates were from Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Ms Welch told graduates that she was humbled by their decision to take up a career in providing service.

“Serving your communities, your fellow men, women and children is a career you will gain a great deal from, while making a valued and life changing contribution towards the wellbeing of others,” she said.

“I encourage you to really think about how you use this opportunity to make a difference and impact others.”

FNU Chancellor, Mr Ikbal Jannif said the College has some of the most advanced health training facilities in the region.

“We also collaborate with the Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services in conducting academic programmes. At the College, we continue working towards creating an environment where students can achieve maximum potential while learning,” he said.

Mr Jannif encouraged graduates to become excellent ambassadors of FNU and return to the University for the next phase of their tertiary education.

Susan Soma from Solomon Islands who graduated with Bachelor of Medical Imaging Science said her journey at the College was challenging.

“Staying away from family and friends was very hard. We sometimes had to wait for a long time for our allowance,” she said.

But she was excited to have completed her studies and was looking forward to starting work in her country the following week.

For further information, please contact Riteshni Singh on Email: mmco@fnu.ac.fj or Phone: 3233000 ext. 3005

About the Fiji National University: The Fiji National University (FNU) was established through the merger of 7 government-owned tertiary institutions in Fiji, and commenced operations from 1 January 2010. The constituent institutions are found at over 40 different locations across Fiji, and collectively offer Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Degrees, Postgraduate qualifications and Skills Upgrading for those who are already in employment. Approximately 30,000 students pass through the University each year. Over the last six years of its operations, the University has registered major achievements with regard to new programme delivery, quality improvements and contribution to research and publications via its 5 Colleges: The College of Humanities & Education (CHE), the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (CMNHS), the College of Engineering, Science & Technology (CEST), the College of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (CAFF), the College of Business, Hospitality & Tourism Studies (CBHTS) and the National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).