

Graduates challenged to think of wider community

Graduates of Fiji National University's (FNU), College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) were challenged to think of the wider community while progressing through their professional endeavours.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony at the FMF Gymnasium in Suva, Chief Guest and President of the Fiji Institute of Engineers, Nathan Kirk, encouraged graduates not to be consumed in their own world but be actively involved towards community and national development.



A College of Engineering, Science and Technology (CEST) graduates receives her certificate from Chief Guest, Nathan Kirk, at the graduation ceremony this afternoon.

"Remember to be mindful of your surroundings and be aware of other professions in the wider community," Kirk said.

"Engineering, science and technology is a very technical field and there is an attraction to become so focused on what you are currently involved with, you don't consider the big picture."

"We all need to think about the wider community and the effects of our actions on the world as a whole. At the end of the day, we're all part of one very large family."

"It is important we understand our placement."

Kirk, who is also the Managing Director and Senior Civil and Structural Engineer at NRW Macallan (Fiji) Limited, said graduates should also consider advancing their professional development.

"You should never stop learning, you're not going to get far in life based on what you already know."

"You're going to advance in life but what you're going to learn after you leave here. It is only through continuous learning that we can all advance the knowledge of humankind."

He added that success was the best way to learn and develop professionally.

"Many believe that failure is beneficial, but what you learn from failure is only one way something didn't work," said Kirk.

"What is far more valuable is learning from your successes. Consider a perfect example of this the success you have achieved today."

"The one thing you know for certain is that with your talent, dedication and hard work, you have been able to achieve something remarkable, where others have tried and failed."

"Looking forward, you will know that taking on something that is hard and difficult, rather than appearing impossible, is a venture truly worthwhile and a challenge worthy of your attention."

FNU Chancellor and Chair of the FNU Council, Dr Rajesh Chandra, while congratulating the 370 graduates, said the qualifications they received marked a turning point in their lives.

"As we look out to you graduates, we are confident that the knowledge, skills competencies and values that we have tried to instil in all of you will mould your individual success as well as the future success of our country," Dr Chandra said.

Dr Chandra also highlighted new programmes and developments by the University.

"The University Senate has also approved a new Bachelors of Nautical Science programme to prepare Fijian seafarers up to Class 1 Masters level, allowing them to captain foreign-going ocean vessels of unlimited size," he said.

"With the accreditation from the Maritimes Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), we plan to launch this important new qualification in the second semester this year."

"Another exciting journey we are looking forward to is the 'hand-over' of the Technical Colleges to FNU from the new financial year (1 August)."

The FNU May graduation series concluded with the graduation of students from the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (CAFF), College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) and National Training & Productivity Centre (NTPC).



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