

ACCRA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MATRICULATION SPEECH - 2019

**PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS AT THE MATRICULATION OF THE SECOND
BATCH OF THE FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
PROGRAMME.**

ACCRA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 5, 2019

COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

DR. SAMUEL AWINKENE ATINTONO

Introduction

Chairman and Members of the College Council

Representatives from University of Ghana:

(Professor Jonathan Fletcher, Dr. Abraham Okrah, Mrs. Cynthia Adu)

Vice Principal

College Secretary

Heads of Departments

Hall Tutors

Members of Convocation

Freshmen and Women

SRC Executives

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the only College of Excellence in the National capital of Ghana and also to this matriculation ceremony for our second batch of the four-year Bachelor of Education students. It is worthy of note that this is the first batch of student that we are matriculating with our affiliation with the Premier University, University of Ghana.

Interestingly, this is the second matriculation ceremony that I am presiding over since I assumed office as Principal of Accra College of Education on November 1, 2018. This matriculation, therefore, is equally my second matriculation although the event is usually performed once for the matriculants.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for been among the few privileged to gain admission into our prestige College of Education with our vigorous and competitive admission selection process.

I am also aware that you are coming to this matriculation this morning just after taking your last paper of your first interim assessment from the University of Ghana. I will not be surprised if some of you are still thinking of the test while sitting in this auditorium. This is for the first baptism of academic life in the College. I wish to say **Ayekoo** to you and good luck.

I am quite certain that most of you will be asking questions as to what matriculation is all about. It is a ceremony that marks the formal process of the admission of students to the College. Indeed, it is during matriculation ceremony that matriculants formally pledge their allegiance to the authority of the College by taking the matriculation oath to be obedient to the Principal, the Administrative head and Chief disciplinary of the College; Management and other officers of the College. By taking the oath, you are committing yourself to be of good behavior, disciplined and worthy ambassadors of Accra College of Education.

Every student who is admitted into the College is required to take the matriculation oath. I am confident that by taking this oath this morning, you will demonstrate your full commitment to conduct yourselves according to the rules, regulations and policies governing the College while you undertake your studies. The College requires the support of both the students and the staff to be successful in its strides to become the center of excellence in teacher education in Ghana and beyond. I will, therefore, like to take the opportunity to advise you to take your studies seriously in order to become successful teachers and citizens.

Mr. Chairman, this year's admission has as always been very competitive. We received a total of 1,213 applicants as first choice applicants. Out of this, 990 applicants qualified. For the second choice, we had 939 and third choice is 1,000 applicants. In all 3,152 applicants expressed interest to be admitted into the College. However, as a result of our limited

infrastructure, we could only admit 354 applicants. Out of this number, 202 are males while 152 are females. I am happy to announce that this year we have deliberately increased our female admission number by 20% in order to gradually meet our gender parity policy requirement/target of 50:50. We have over the years attained 72:28 but this year we achieved 58:42 and are on course to meeting our target.

The College runs two main academic programs of the Four-Year Bachelor of Education Programme. The Primary and Junior High School options. Thus, the students admitted this year, 160 belongs to the Primary track while 190 are for the Junior High School Option.

In terms of affiliation, the College is one of the six Colleges of Education that have been affiliated to University of Ghana, Legon. We signed the affiliation agreement in October 2019. By this agreement, the University of Ghana will provide oversight academic mentorship to the College to ensure that we adhere strictly to the quality standards in the preparation of the teacher trainees on the National Teacher Education Curriculum Framework (NTECF) and the National Teaching Standards (NTS). These batch of students that are present here to be matriculated today are the first batch that we have admitted under the Legon affiliation. They will graduate with certificates awarded by the University of Ghana in four years to come. We are excited to be affiliated to the University of Ghana mainly because our vision of been the center of excellence and our programs aligned perfectly with the University and we are poised to achieve excellence.

Mr. Chairman, the College like any of the 46 Colleges of Education have the mission of training teachers to become professionally competent and as such, self-discipline and hard work are the core values of our training. As you have been admitted to the College you must strive for academic excellence. I wish to entreat you to take inspiration from your colleagues in the second year who are pioneers of the Four-Year Bachelor of Education Degree Programme. They have encountered problems, made mistakes, gained insight into the programme, identified strategies for successful learning, discovered solutions and also understood the assessment protocols that can lead to success.

My dear freshmen and women, last year seventeen students at the end of the first year could not progress to the second year as a result of poor academic performances and we painfully had to withdraw them. The College have taken steps to strengthen the academic counselling unit and have appointed a professional counselling Coordinator to assist students who might have difficulty in adapting to learning strategies and especially independent studies in the College. As you started your programme on a clean sheet, I urge you to take advantage of this intervention and also have a positive mindset that you are here to complete your studies successfully and make an excellent grade at the end of the four years.

In the past ten years, teacher education have witnessed a great transformation and the critical component of these reforms is the implementation of the National Teacher Education Curriculum Framework (NTECT) of which a 4-Year B.Ed curriculum is anchored to and assessed against the National Teaching Standards (NTS). The Four-Year B.Ed Programme is designed to prepare new teachers to become effective, engaging and inspirational, and fully prepared to teach the basic school curriculum in order to improve the learning outcomes and life chances of all learners as set out in the National Teacher's Standard (NTS). The aims are: integrity, creativity, and responsible citizenship and to achieve inclusive, equitable, high quality education for all learners in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Four (4).

One key component of the 4-Year B.Ed programme which is different from the Diploma Programme is the Supported Teaching in School (STS) which used to be teaching practice now starts from year one through year four with different level of emphasis. Indeed, STS constitute 30% of your entire training. I encourage you to take advantage of these innovations in the teacher education reforms and become good teachers to help contribute to quality education.

My dear students, your coming to Accra College of Education have given you a lot of opportunities to make new friends, shake of regrets and missed chances, build new professional networks, a chance to truly reflect on your personal career philosophy about teaching and above all see in the horizon the type of teacher and citizen you will want to

be after your four years journey on your teaching career. I urge you to take advantage of our supportive academic and non-academic staff and remain focus on your studies.

The College is ready to support you succeed despite a number of challenges that we are faced with. As you would have noticed, quite recently we have committed some efforts to ensure that, internet access is active in all corners of the college's campus to enable you access electronic materials to support your learning. I encourage you to use it purposely for studies rather than chatting on social media such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

I will like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to government for its continuous support to the Colleges of Education to fully achieve their tertiary status. In particular, our academic staff for the first time received their book and research allowances for the 2019/2020 academic year to support them undertake research. This is a step in the right direction as research is a critical component of tertiary institutions and particularly in teacher education.

I wish to conclude my speech by reminding you that your main goal of coming to the College is to study hard and graduate as successful professional teachers. You must therefore, study diligently and direct all your energies into your academic and professional work. Also remember that you are to take full responsibility of your actions and know when to play and when to engage in your studies, as you take on your academic pursuit, remember that discipline is expected of you and you must abide by all the College rules and regulations. Do enjoy your freedom but do so responsibly.

On behalf of the College Council, Members of Convocation and my own behalf, I would wish to congratulate you again on your admission to Accra College of Education and extend a warm welcome to you once again. We will do our best to make your stay here pleasant and memorable one as much as possible.

Do enjoy your stay on our natural conducive environment and take advantage of every available facility to support your studies and prepare for your future professional careers.

Lift high the banner of Accra College of Education and imbide **Gye Nyame** in all that you do.

I wish you well.

Thank you and God bless you all.