
President's Address for 2021 College/School Commencement

Way Kuo
President and University Distinguished Professor

Welcome everyone to this celebration of academic achievement.

This is an exciting day because we are holding the Commencement Ceremony in May for the very first time.

As you know, November was the month for graduation in the past, and we used to call that event the Graduation Ceremony.

However, by following international norms, we now capture the sense of excitement that you must be feeling today as you 'commence' your new lives as professionals in the workplace.

It is my passionate hope that you will carry forward with you the innovation, knowledge creation and knowledge transfer that we have worked so hard to promote in all our academic programmes.

As you well know, we themed our university anthem 'Venture Beyond Boundaries' to celebrate our success as an innovative place for higher education. This anthem was first performed publicly during the Chinese New Year festivities this year.

Our success in recent years is seen in the leading position that many of our researchers now occupy. They are listed among the top 2% of the world's most highly cited scientists. Compared to faculty size, CityU's percentage of the world's top 2% most highly cited scientists is among the highest in Asia.

This outstanding achievement reveals not only that we produce great research, but also that our students are taught by professors who are at the top of their peers.

Consequently, I believe that you are well prepared for the challenges presented by today's workplace. That's why, in these unprecedented times, we are committed to building a strengthened capacity for nurturing entrepreneurship as a new dimension in your career development.

Our latest initiative is aimed at enabling young people such as yourselves to build their own start-ups. HK Tech 300 is CityU's flagship innovation and entrepreneurship programme. Launched in March this year, it reaches out to aspiring entrepreneurs in the CityU community. We are investing HK\$500 million to create 300 start-ups in three years.

Under the mentorship of CityU's first-rate faculty and with the support of our partners and the community, we hope that HK Tech 300 will become the number one university-based entrepreneurship programme in Asia, an enterprise that will empower our students to 'venture beyond boundaries'.

I am certain that many of you here today will benefit greatly from HK Tech 300, and I am excited to think about the kinds of companies that will be created, the ideas that will be generated, and how they will benefit society.

Setting up a start-up is one way to contribute to society, but there are many more avenues for you to choose from as you commence your new lives. To be rational, tolerant and understanding are among the most important character traits that we can possess as informed and responsible members of a community.

On a day like this, I am heartened to know that we will remain in touch through our alumni networks and through the incredible support for jobs that have been made available through CityU initiatives such as HK Tech 300.

May I end by thanking our faculty and staff once more, and also your families for the invaluable support that they have offered during your studies. Let's never forget the sacrifices that they have made in making your commencement a reality.

And so best wishes to you all and good luck for your future careers.
