

VC Service Workers Welcome: 4 December 2019

Welcome to the graduating class of 2019! You all look incredibly smart in your gowns and it is indeed an honour to share this morning with you. Graduations or certification ceremonies are one of my favourite events to attend since they symbolise success and hard work. And we must take a minute to recognise the sacrifice that would have been made by you to be able to be in this auditorium today. It may have involved time away from your duties or longer hours but you persevered.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we may not have this opportunity again so let me start by saying thank you for your hard work and service to CPUT. Service Workers are the engine room of the university and play a critical role in keeping operations running. This is never more evident than at the big Graduation ceremonies that we host twice a year. I am always so proud when I drive into campus and see the pristine gardens, the graduation hall looking immaculate and the floors of the Administration building shining. We are showing the parents and visitors the best that we have to offer when our departments work together like that. We truly are One Smart CPUT.

For some of you, today may be the first time you are wearing a graduation robe. I hope it inspires you to continue improving yourself through the multitude of learning and development opportunities on offer at CPUT. Ladies and Gentleman, I can without hesitation assure you of the following statement- *'you will not work for an employer who is more generous, than CPUT, with time and resources in investing in your self-improvement'*. We **WANT** you to be better and do better, and the university makes a massive investment in time and resources to ensure that.

But on that note, you must also invest in yourself. Build on the success of today and enrol in more courses so that when opportunities for promotion arise you are ready to grasp them. We are after all examples to our children, so we owe it to them to be the best we can be. In conclusion I hope... that a year from now I see familiar faces at this same event, because you have heeded my advice and continued to study. Encourage your colleagues to do the same and let us keep building this fine institution that we are so proud to work for.

Thank you and enjoy the ceremony

