

## BlueCrest Graduation Ceremony

The month of May is one of the awaited months on the part of the Students of BlueCrest College as well of course those guardians who for the first time see their son or daughters be one of those members to a graduating class. As handsomely and beautiful dressed in their robes, the class of 2016 sat glamorously for the commencement of the ceremony. This was on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 as early as 10am at the Trade fare center, LA, Accra.

At this wonderful event were Honorable Chairman for the ceremony Dr. E. James Flolu, Our Guests of Honor Prof. James Hawkins Ephraim, Chief Guest for the event Professor Samuel Asiedu-Addom Representing the Vice Chancellor for University of Education, Winneba, Registrar for BlueCrest College, Mr. Sujith Jayaprakash, Associate Deans, Dr. Balamurugan and Mrs. Eva Esther Shalin, Head of Departments, Distinguished guests, Staff, students of BlueCrest College, and the graduating class of 2016.

Opening prayers were said to commence the ceremony. A welcome address by Mr. Vivek K. Verma, Rector BlueCrest College on the occasion of its Graduation Ceremony was given. In account of his speech, he gave a congratulatory message to the graduates. He also stated a new report by the World Bank on unemployment in Ghana has revealed that about 48 percent of Ghanaians between the ages of 15-24 do not have jobs. In addition to the already said report only 6 percent of young people in sub-Saharan Africa are enrolled in higher education institutions compared to the global average of 26 percent.

The promising news is that universities in many African countries are experiencing a surge in their enrollment. Between 2000 and 2010, higher education enrollment more than doubled, increasing from 2.3 million to 5.2 million.

In 2008, about 223,000 students from sub-Saharan Africa were enrolled in tertiary education outside of their home countries, representing 7.5 percent of the total global number of students who study outside of their home country.

As per UNESCO and World Bank, A one-year increase in average tertiary education levels would raise annual GDP growth in Africa by 0.39 percentage points, and eventually yield up to a 12 percent increase in GDP.

The report, "The Landscape of Jobs in Ghana", touched on ways of finding opportunities for youth inclusion in Ghana's labour market. "In Ghana, youth are less likely than adults to be working: in 2012, about 52% of people aged 15-24 were employed (compared to about 90% for the 25-64 population), a third were in school, 14% were inactive and 4% were unemployed actively looking for job. Young women in the same age group are particularly disadvantaged and have much higher inactivity rates than men: 17% of young female are inactive as opposed to 11% of males," the report said

Next was an opening remarks by the Event Chair-man Prof Flolu. In his speech he quoted David Wallace, *"Learning how to think really means learning how to exercise some control over how and what you think. It means being conscious and aware enough to choose what you pay attention to and to choose how you construct meaning from experience. Because if you cannot exercise this kind of choice in adult life, you will be totally sluiced."*

He adage them to be very conscious of their actions and the trends changing the way the world. He urged them to learn from their faults and mistakes and take full responsibilities. He also edged them to be very be alert in professional in service, stay abreast with global trends and uphold high ethical and professional standards and at all times to do their profession and the Information Technology industry proud. To this emphasis he added a saying from Alan Ashley-Pitt, "You have two choices in life. One is to dissolve into the mainstream or you can be distinct. To be distinct, you must be different. To be different you must strive to be what nobody else but you can be". He then congratulated them once again and the honored guests around.

Between the morning and afternoon a small cross-section of students had their privileges to give speeches.

“Amid political turmoil, recession and a severe cash crunch in the Greek economy, there were a lot of companies that tripled its revenue with a team of young entrepreneurs with an average age of 29. Don’t get yourself dragged into this unemployment debate going around and use your skills and knowledge earned at BlueCrest to become successful entrepreneurs. Our experience has been that the entrepreneurial spirit can shine through despite economic or political failure. Beyond the sheer determination to create and progress, maintaining a global perspective has been the most important ingredient in one’s success. There is no stronger antidote to the over-emphasized unemployment debate engulfing this region and you have all the tools to succeed. We at BlueCrest are developing an Entrepreneurship Development program exclusively for our past and current students, to train them in a short duration of time on how to develop and market their products commercially. I encourage all of you to be a part of that program to have an edge over others in the market.” He cautioned them (graduating class of 2015)

A certificate of Graduation is the tangible evidence of being a graduate in a certain level of education. It is now the fruit of each students’ endeavor. The honors were done by Associate Deans, Dr. Balamurugan, and Registrar for BlueCrest College, Mr. Sujith Jayaprakash, and Chief Guest for the event Professor Samuel Asiedu-Addom Representing the Vice Chancellor for University of Education, Winneba and other distinguished guests.

After the awarding of medals and ribbons to the student who carved name for themselves, Associations took turns to give their final speeches to the graduates. Immense smiles and happiness were written all over the faces of these students whiles the ceremony was brought to an end. Exchange of pleasantries, photograph shots and contacts was the last segment before everyone took the celebrations ahead to various places.