

Good day to you all. It is an honour to attend this auspicious occasion and celebrate with my fellow Graduands. Thank your Torika for your trust and for giving me this wonderful opportunity to speak to you.

Aspire2 leaders, tutors, graduands, family and friends, thank you for your support, guidance through our educational journey and for being here today to celebrate with us. To all Aspire2 International graduands , congratulations! Please, a big round of applauses to all of you, you deserve it.

When I was invited to give this speech, I was a little unsure about what I could say, that would create an impact on you. So I imagined myself in your spot... thought about what would I like to hear if I would be sitting there?

Follow your own path, dream big, never give up, and never fall back.

I know you've heard this before, and I will try to express why I think this value is so important. I am totally sure that you and I have had the training and we have the skills to succeed! . At first, most of us are going to fail... but my friends that is not a problem.

Michael Jordan, the best basketball player ever, once said: *"I missed more than 9.000 shots in my career, I have lost almost 300 games, 26 times. I have been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I have failed over, and over, and over again in my life, and that is why, I succeed"*

If you are not failing, you are not even trying.

To have something you never had, you have to do something you never did.

I remember when I was studying Electronics back in Argentina, I spent a lot of hours sitting in my desk. They were long and lonely nights... just myself and my assignments. At times when feeling overtired, exhausted and overwhelmed by the workload, and about to call it quits, I had a quote above my desk, that I will never forget. I don't know where I got the quote from, but its message matters,

“Dreams will always remain dreams if you keep dreaming about them. The second you start working towards that dream, it will become a goal”.

Thinking about that message made me understand that I had a dream! I completed my studies and become an Engineer. 6 or 7 years later, I'm watching my dream coming true. It didn't just happen magically or overnight. It is because I am working really hard, moving step by step to realise my dream. What is really important, never falling back but always falling forward. The experience and journey are not the same for everyone. Remember, we are all going to experience failure, but what we are never going to do is... Give up!

Before I finish, I want to thank my family and wife, without their unconditional support I wouldn't be here today speaking to you. I love you so much.

To conclude, I want to leave you with a phrase from the CEO and President of Amazon, Jeff Bezos:

“Work hard, have fun, make history”

Thank you so much, have a great day.