

Greetings President Williams, Vice President Lausch, Deans, Faculty and fellow graduates, my name is Ida and I am honored to have been selected as the Salutatorian for our graduating class.

Newt Gingrich once said, "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did." (PAUSE). Can we all agree that we have surely exemplified determination, resilience, and flexibility, in the face of every obstacle that was thrown our way, including a pandemic that all but brought the entire world to a screeching halt? Let's take this moment to truly appreciate the hard work and dedication that has brought our ambitions to fruition.

On a personal note, I must thank the people who have matched my dedication and supported me throughout this journey: my friends and family, my fellow nursing graduates, and the faculty that went to bat for us and have left a lasting impression: Professor Mcfadden, Professor Snow, Professor Amalraj, and especially Professor Greiner, who has mentored many of us throughout our clinical.

I am confident that we will all persist in the face of the challenges to come and use our time at NCC as a lens to have bright futures. So, I leave you with the words of Steve Jobs, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. You have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."

Congratulations class of 2021. We did it!