

23rd Congregation Address 2017 (Session 7)

Professor Allan WALKER

Dean of the Faculty of Education and Human Development

Professor Lee, distinguished guests, graduates, colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen,

A very warm welcome to the 23rd Congregation of The Education University of Hong Kong. This is a day when we all come together to celebrate with you - our graduates, the parents, other family members and friends. The conferment of academic awards recognises your and your families' dedication, commitment and hard-earned success - all the work you have put in over the last few years. My warmest congratulations to all of you.

Today we gather to recognise the graduates of our undergraduate programmes in early childhood education. We believe that early childhood educators have an unparalleled opportunity to enrich and improve the lives of our children, and the life of our society. Thanks to the dedication of our teachers and the hard work of our students, more than 1,400 people will graduate from the Faculty of Education and Human Development this year, and you make up a large and very important slice of those numbers.

As an education-focused, multidisciplinary University that emphasises quality research, we will continue to build on your legacy by expanding our programmes and further internationalising our student population and University community.

In the 21st century, knowledge and agility are key. But just as important as your academic achievements is your passion for the world, and your efforts to better your life, society, and the lives of those around you. Embrace the world with openness and anticipation. Make a difference. Small deeds can snowball to make big and important changes to the world. Our Faculty holds high expectations for our students and graduates and we are confident that you will continue to make this real and positive difference in your communities.

As you embark on this new phase of your life, we share your joy and your pride. I hope that EdUHK has helped to draw from you your best qualities, and has equipped you with the skills and self-confidence to serve our society. You are tomorrow's leaders.

Last but not least, I wish you all the very best, every success and untold happiness in your future endeavours. With your new qualification and unbounded passion, I am sure you will carve an exciting and a truly rewarding career in the years ahead. We are all very proud of you! Thank you, enjoy the day.