

TAFE Graduation 3 April 2003



Camtu Pham from CleverLink offers her tips to the TAFE IT graduates

Dear Minister for Education and Training Dr Andrew Refshauge, Managing director of NSW TAFE, Jan McClelland, Institute director - Barry Peddle, and Dean of Studies - Glyn Gardner, distinguished guests, proud family members, and graduates:

It is a great honour for me to be here tonight at the TAFE graduation ceremony. Thanks to Glyn for the invitation.

Benjamin Franklin once said:

*"Take the coins out of your purse and invest them in your mind
and your mind will fill your purse with coins"*

As a person who invested 18 years in formal education and more than 4 years delivering training courses to business people and students, I could not agree with this concept more.

As a graduate, each of you have already experienced the hard work, invested the money, and dedicated the time for your study over the last few years. Today, you hold the results in your hands. You have achieved your DREAMS. CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU, your teachers and your family.

Now, what are you going to do with your certificates?

At this moment, you might think that "Well, this is the end of study and the mission is completed". Tomorrow - you will realise that having a certificate is only the BEGINNING! The certificate you received today is a golden-key that will help to open the career doors for you. However, you need remember that you MUST also Knock on the doors - the more you knock, the more open doors will welcome you.

Employment in Australia and across the world is very competitive. Especially IT related jobs in the last few years. This is not to discourage you but to make you aware that you need to play hard and smart to win any games these days.

I suggest you do the following things to prepare for your career:

1. Do not sell yourself short. Be aware of your strengths - not just academic records but also pay attention to areas such as teamwork, interpersonal skills, communication skills, problem solving, etc
2. Decide whether you want to apply for a job or start your own business
3. Invest time and effort in your cover letter and resume

4. Study the FAQ. Most employers ask similar questions. Why not prepare yourselves for those questions like: Tell me more about yourself, What are your strengths and weaknesses, where do you see yourself in 3 years time, etc?
5. Compile a list of reasons why someone should employ you or should use your services
6. Follow up. Write a letter to thank the employer for the interview. Send them a post card. Give them a call!
7. Do not allocate all your time in the IT area. If you want to become an IT consultant with an edge, train yourself in personal networking, public speaking, and communication skills. Business people want high tech but high touch will go a long way
8. Be a life long student. Having a degree or a certificate is only the beginning. The certificate proves that you are "trainable"



I have brought with me my company postcards and I would like to give each of you a copy. The post card is a symbol of growing and achieving your goals. If you find my information useful, go to the CleverLink's Website www.cleverlink.com.au and look for the CleverTips. I publish a short tip every Friday.

All the above are my suggestions for long term strategy. A tip for you to do is "Go and buy something for yourself tomorrow or on the weekend" I do not

know what you want BUT you deserve it. To achieve success – You must celebrate VICTORIES!

Once again, Congratulations and best wishes for your future career. You can become whatever you want to be. If you believe you can, you can!

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From L to R:
 Nick Theodore, CIO, TAFE
 Camtu Pham, Managing Director, CleverLink
 Stephen Henderson, MDO TAFE
 Marianne Saliba MP Illawarra
 Glyn Gardner , Dean of Studies, TAFE



Camtu presents a Diploma to one of the Illawarra Institute Information Technology graduates



Glyn Gardner opens the graduation ceremony

