

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR KWASI KWAFO ADARKWA,
(FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR OF KNUST) AS GUEST SPEAKER AT**

**THE 36th MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF CHRISTIAN
SERVICE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ON**

SATURDAY, 22nd OCTOBER, 2011 AT

10:00AM AT THE DURBAR

GROUNDS ON THE THEME:

“THE WINNING ATTITUDE”

SALUTATION

President

Vice President

Registrar

Faculty Members

Freshmen and Women

Distinguished Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

I am grateful to the President and his administrators for inviting me as the Guest Speaker to your University's College's Matriculation Ceremony. Following the end of my tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology a little over a year ago, I thought I was going to have time for myself but here I am today taking part in one of the most important ceremonies of any University. Especially when the invitation comes from someone like Professor Emmanuel Frempong, who incidentally happens to be my Church Elder

or Presbyterian and a colleague, I have no other option than to wholeheartedly accept and share in the joy of the occasion with you.

I must confess that I have been particularly impressed with the level of development the Christian Service University College (CSUC) has achieved for itself over the last few years; undergoing restructuring and transformation in an attempt to reposition itself as a credible tertiary institution with a vision to make its patrons “..... **Know Christ better and to make Him better know**”. Please do accept my warmest congratulations.

MATRICULATION CEREMONIES

The world over, matriculation ceremonies, such as the one we are witnessing this morning, continue to be observed on the calendar of almost all higher institutions of learning. As one of the core traditions of tertiary institutions, it is during such occasions that freshmen are formally admitted as junior members in statu pupillari of the institution by signing the Register of Students. Without this ceremony, one cannot hold oneself as a student, and an alumnus or alumna, of an institution. So, as a former Vice-Chancellor, this morning's ceremony undoubtedly brings back nostalgic memories.

It is on this note that I congratulate all fresh students gathered here this morning for being deemed qualified to have been admitted for further studies here at the CSUC which is, reputed to be one of the best private tertiary institutions in the country. Being aware of the trend in admissions into our tertiary institution, I am convinced that, you were more competitive, to have gained an edge over others who could not secure admission to this University College.

THE WINNING ATTITUDE

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I would now want to devote the next few minutes of my presentation to some key issues I consider very critical in cultivating a winning attitude as you begin your studies here at the CSUC. Many people have expressed their opinion about what it takes to cultivate a winning attitude. In my opinion, a winning attitude is doing what you are supposed to do under the prevailing circumstances and benchmarking everything you do with the Word of God. Certain actions may be counterproductive when employed under certain circumstances but as you seek to achieve success and become a winner at the end of your studies here at the Christian Service University College.

The first one is your ability to cultivate enthusiasm about what you have chosen to do here. Many times, one is unable to get one's first choice programme in the university and this surely has a telling effect on motivation. What I will urge you at this point to do, is to cultivate the need for enthusiasm about your programme for it is said that, a man can succeed at almost anything for which he has an unlimited enthusiasm. It has been said nothing can be accomplished, if you want to realize great goals, if you want to live a great life and so on, you must possess enthusiasm for everything you do. Enthusiasm allows you to control the emotional climate of any given situation. Be happy and content with the programme you have chosen or have been given to study, have the needed passion for it and be self-motivated. Most importantly, please

remember that God has ordained that you should be there at the Christian Service University College and has given you a programme to study. Nothing happens by chance.

The second clue I want to highlight for attaining winner attitude is your ability to plan your life. As you begin your study period here, you will soon find out that during a particular period, you may have several competing demands on your limited time. Your ability to anticipate these demands on your time, make the necessary provisions for them and allowing slacks for flexibility will go a long way helping you get things done in an orderly manner. This way, you know at hand what you need to do, when you need to do them and how you need to do them. When you plan your activities well ahead of time, you have a clear sense of direction or vision, you have the opportunity to analyze various alternative courses of action, you are able to properly allocate your resources including time, and you drastically reduce uncertainties and panicking. This way, you will also be able to have a clear blue print against which you will be able to measure your success or failure. I will, therefore, urge you to make it a habit to plan your activities ahead and you will never regret you did. Remember that God, the creator of the universe planned the whole act creation and therefore we all need to learn from him.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the last point I want to bring to your attention, in addition to planning and enthusiasm is to have focus. In life, there are so many distractions which have the potential to distract anyone from his or her goals. At times, we are attracted by these distractions and tend to follow paths we have not planned to follow but as an American Investor,

Thomas Boone Pickens, said, **“The older I get, the more I see straight path where I want to go. If you are going to hunt elephants, don’t get off the trail for a rabbit”**. This saying clearly shows that, focus is very important in life when one wants to achieve one’s goals in life. Your ability to focus on your goals will, among others, help you to reach decisions quickly and firmly by saving time and energy which you would otherwise have wasted while wavering through possible courses of your journey and at the end of it all, you will have a clear yardstick to measure your success or failure.

A positive attitude leads to happiness and success and can change your whole life. If you look at the bright side of life, your whole life becomes filled with light. The light affects not only you and the way you look at the world, but also your whole environment and the people around you. If it is strong enough, it becomes contagious. If you cultivate a positive attitude in life generally, you stand to benefit from achieving goals and attaining success by looking at the bright side of issues instead of groaning and nagging about negative things and being pessimistic. You must be optimists and believe that you are accountable for good things and that good thing will generally come your way. If something bad comes instead, treat it as only an isolated incident and believe the things will be in the future. You may trail an important paper or may get poor grade in 3-credit hour paper which situation has the tendency to bring you down. Do not lose hope, for you have the opportunity to resist the paper if even you trial and make amends. After all, you are not and will not be the first or last to fail a paper and take it again; many great men have treaded the path before. No matter how gloomy the situation may be, be positive and remember what Anthony J. D’Angelo said, **“Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine”**.

CONCLUSION

As you begin your studies here at Christian Service University College for a degree, I urge you to be enthusiastic about what you have set out to do, plan your activities, be focused and have a positive attitude towards all that you do and you will be a winner at the end of it all. Learn as many new things as possible, many of which may seem irrelevant for now but may become a weapon for you in future. Try to participate in almost all University activities, make new friends or contacts and be nice to everybody you meet. Finally, never forget your God because he is the one who guides your steps and will direct you to become a winner in your chosen field of study.

I wish you God's guidance and all the best in your studies.

Thank you.