

Kellogg Certificate Program for Undergraduates Celebration
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Welcome Words from Alum

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Some of you may know me, but for those who I never met my name is Boom, and I graduated from the Kellogg Certificate Program for the Managerial Analytics group last year.

I can hardly believe that just a year ago I was also sitting there at your seat, also waiting to receive the certificate, graduate, and get out of here! Shouldn't have been too excited back then, now that I started working.... But I must admit it feels weird to be standing on this spot now speaking to all of you today.

I'm not here to bore you with any long speech, since I know most of you want to get the certificate and get out of here soon as well, but as alum from the CPU program **I would like to congratulate all of you for completing one of the toughest, but most rewarding programs at Northwestern.**

It is not an easy feat to complete the Kellogg Certificate, given a huge list of pre-requisites you have to take just to get in the program, and the rigorous workload that's required of you. **But every one of you should be proud of the opportunity that you get from the program.**

We had a chance to take courses that Kellogg MBA students are taking, and they are taught by the best professors in those subjects. I have a colleague in my project right now who graduated from Kellogg MBA program last year, and when I mentioned the professor names that I had, Professor Deshmuk, Professor Schummer, Professor Basamboo, and Professor Banerjee, he was very surprised since he said that many people pays thousands just to take classes with them.

Not only do you get the prestigious Kellogg name on your CV, the things you learn from the program become very useful as well. Personally, I feel that the Kellogg CPU program has helped me not only in my career, but also in personal life.

First, the knowledge I gained from the program is very applicable in the real world and become very useful in the work that I'm doing now. Currently I am working as an analyst in the Management Consulting group at Accenture, and the project I am doing now is Strategic Sourcing for the City of Chicago. The initiative I'm working on is on procurement of HW SW for City IT department, and my role is to analyze pricing proposals from vendors and compare their bids to see who is provide the most cost effective solution to the city. I still find myself referring back to excel skills I learned from the Analytical Decision Modeling class with Professor Deshmuk and also to supply chain knowledge I gained from Operations Management class. (I don't think you guys had a chance to learn because it's replaced by the Empirical Methods in Strategy class). Overall, those skills I learned helped me perform in my job effectively, and I'm really enjoying it.

Second, the rigorous workload and the high expectation that is required from program has helped prepare me for the demanding job of management consulting. I had no problem staying up later to

finish my work since I know that I've had it worse when I had to stay up to 3 am trying to finish Data Modeling and Corporate Finance problem sets at the same time. I'm pretty sure a lot of you can relate to that as well. Since most of you will be going to jobs such as consulting, investment banking, etc., CPU program really set you up for the demanding job environments that you will be facing in the future.

Finally, I've got a chance to meet really great people from the CPU programs and develop great friendships with many of them. Going back to staying late to do work, I still remember the one time I had to stay late to do problem set for Operations class on my birthday. Yes, it was kind of sad. But when my team knows that it's my birthday we stopped working and shouldn't reveal this to anyone, but one of my teammates went to her apartment and grab a few drinks, and had a party down at the basement of 555 Clark. It wasn't the most glamorous birthday parties I've had, but it was definitely the most memorable memory I had at 555 Clark, and I was glad that I spent it with my CPU buddies. I still keep in touch with many of people from the program and I strongly encourage all of you to do the same as well, since you guys have been through this together.

I want to end this with some "inspirational words" to you guys. I really had a hard time coming up with an advice to this crowd because being from the program myself I know that every one of you all know what you want to do and will become successful in the future.

One advice that I want to say to all of you, is "Try to Enjoy the Present".

Too often we focus too much on where we want to be or what we want to do in the future, and lose our way in the present. This is especially true to this crowd who I know are all overachievers and ambitious people. Explore life, might run into opportunities that you never thought of before and could be even better than your original goal. Don't set too much expectation; you can and should set specific goal for yourself, but don't be too hard on yourself if you don't get to where you imagined yourself to be.

With that, I want to say congratulations to you all again, and good luck in the future in whatever you want to do.