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2024 Travelers EDGE Graduation Keynote

Speech

(DESCRIPTION)

Scholar stands in front of window on college campus.

TEXT: Pang Dao Xiong, Augsburg University, Class of 2024

(SPEECH)

PANG DAO XIONG:

Hello everyone!

My name is Pang Dao Xiong. I recently graduated from Augsburg University with a bachelor's degree in marketing. It is a great pleasure to be this year's keynote speaker for the Travelers EDGE graduating class of 2024.

First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate my fellow Travelers EDGE graduates for their incredible success and achievement! The Class of 2024 is a class that has already lived through many global challenges and conflicts, some that are still ongoing. We began our collegiate journey in the midst of the pandemic in 2020, and though Covid-19 was tough, we were tougher. We overcame the barriers of Zoom classes and continued to push ourselves harder because of the lost opportunities. We picked ourselves up like champs and triumphed through obstacles as we marched closer and closer toward the finish line. But I can confidently say that this would not have been possible for many of us without Travelers EDGE.

The five pillars of this program; financial support, professional development, academic advising, mentorship, and peer to peer support, were braided and seamlessly weaved throughout, positively shaping the trajectory of my entire college experience. Travelers EDGE pushed me to do better today so that I can be better tomorrow.

We each have a fire that flickers within us and Travelers EDGE is the wind that tends to our fire, showing us how to maintain it so that it won't be uncontrollably dangerous yet also won't be easily extinguished. The five pillars that I mentioned earlier are the ways this program tends to our fire. Travelers EDGE sets us up for success by supplying the air to keep our fire from dying.

This fire is our passion, our drive, and our motivation to keep pushing forward even when things get hard. It is the ability to see challenges as opportunities and mistakes as growth. It is the ability to interpret failures as progress and success not as a final destination but only a fragment of life. It is to not be consumed by greed and power but creating peace and balance. Fire can be destructive if it is neglected. As we step into the roles of future leaders, I ask that we take care

of our fire so that it burns with tenderness and compassion. My mentor once said the world already has enough bad leaders. We need peacemakers, healers, and friends.

With the tools and skills Travelers EDGE has taught us, let's go out there and make the world a better place, no matter the scale of the impact. This class has exhibited great signs of patience, resilience, and courage, so I have no doubt that we will only go up from here. Class of 2024, please take care of your fire so it can only propel you forward.

Congratulations again!

(DESCRIPTION)

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