

PROMOTION AFFILIATE VELIKO TARNOVO
CLASS 2019
Rector's Speech

Prof. Dr. Krasimir Ivanov, DSc

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In a few minutes you will witness the diploma awarding ceremony of thirty-three nurses and midwives from the first Class at the Affiliate of Medical University - Varna in Veliko Tarnovo. And do you know what makes this moment even more special? The fact that all of them have made their choice to launch their professional careers here, in Bulgaria!

Practically, studying Nursery Care and Midwifery is not easy at all - they have to pass approximately 80 semester and four state examinations throughout their 4-year training. Taking everything into consideration, a question arises quite logically - what motivates these young women to go through the hardships of training in order to face the problems and difficulties in the system?

There is something greater than the amount of payment as motivation for working ... There is something greater than the prestige of the profession, as a reason for commitment and something greater than just the desire for a professional development...

And this is the love for people. The love of life and that invisible power thanks to which we exist.

But there is also something more – the extremely strong spirit!

And isn't it precisely due to that strong spirit the Old Capital City has survived over the centuries? The prosperity of literature, the rejection of the foreign religious faith, the preservation of the Bulgarian essence, the traditions and the covenant of the ancestors... Not accidentally has Veliko Tarnovo been proclaimed the historical and spiritual capital of Bulgaria. A city with more than six thousand years of history, the cradle of spirituality, literature and statehood, a city that has become the most significant political, economic, cultural and religious centre of Bulgaria as the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

I am looking at these young ladies in front of me, and I know - the blood of boyars is flowing in their veins, they have that invincible spirit that will always help them cope with the hardships!

And I would like to tell them, "I admire the courage, audacity and love you carry in your hearts, dear graduates! I am proud of you, and I believe in you! And maybe it will not be far-fetched if I say that the heroes of our time are precisely young people like you, who have made their choice to stay in their homeland and be useful to their compatriots.

Numerous examples can be found in our history when, in times of crisis and spiritual decline, our ancestors found the epitome of deep patriotism and selfless love for the motherland in seeking support and faith for a better future in education. Here, I would like to extend special thanks to the Mayor of Veliko Tarnovo, the district authorities and the public, because without the efforts and willingness of you all, the Affiliate of Medical University - Varna would not have been a reality today. You have justified and defended the need for its establishment in your city, the necessity some of the most wanted and needed medical personnel in our country to be trained in Veliko Tarnovo. Supporting the establishment of this educational institution, you have made the most valuable investment that will pay back many times over! Because it is the educated people with huge hearts that possess the real power to change the future of their country!

However, the most important thing is that these brave ladies will not pack their suitcases and depart with what they have learned. On the contrary,

*they will remain here, in their home country in order to take care of the Bulgarian patients, Bulgarian mothers, Bulgarian children. As a Bulgarian educational institution we are aware that it is not enough to educate only, but we also need to develop skills and professional habits in the young people. We can claim we have completed our mission solely if these young people remain in our country.
Because it does need them!*

Dear graduates,

I wish you to be healthy and to bestow health and life!

Follow your hearts!

Rely on the power of the spirit that you carry inside you!

Believe in yourselves and your capabilities!

Good luck to you all!