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Class of 2015, we have finally made it to graduation, but the big question is, “Where do we go and what do we do now?” Steve Jobs, co-founder, chairman and CEO of Apple Inc once stated, "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." WE now have the ability to decide where WE want to go in life. And, like Jobs stated, we must listen to our own inner voice and have the courage to follow our own hearts and intuitions. Whether we go off to a four year college, vocational school, or we go immediately into the workforce, we will all define what our own personal success is and means. As we start to plan our future, we must remember that it is not about the destination but the journey along the way. Our life's journey is going to be filled with numerous obstacles and lessons before we get to our final destination; however, the most important aspect of going on this journey is to experience joy along the way. There are three things you need to consider as you travel down this path. First, you must find YOUR passion in life. Second, you must set high expectations for your life, and finally, you must allow yourself to make mistakes along the way.

First, you must find YOUR passion in life. No matter where you end up, be true to your passion. Don't compromise your happiness on the road to success. When people say you never work a day in your life when you are doing what you love, they aren't kidding. And if you don't know what your passion may be, now is a great time to find out. Graduation marks the beginning of our journey not only into adulthood but also into self discovery. So on the road to your future, remember that when you are passionate about something, it is worth taking a chance.

Second, you must set high expectations for your life. So, what does this so called future hold for us? We all have different goals and aspirations. Some of us might

want to become engineers, some of us may want to become doctors, and some of us might want to go into the agricultural field. Whatever our goals may be, we all need to set high expectations for ourselves. We should never settle for second best or settle for anything below what we are truly capable of doing. Don't take the easy road just because it's easy. Setting high expectations will push us to try harder and motivate us to reach and fulfill our destinations. And, when we reach those destinations, the outcome will be more meaningful and worthwhile because of the obstacles we've overcome and the goals we've reached.

Now, as we follow our passions in life and set high expectations, we finally must understand that mistakes are going to be made along the way. However, we need to realize that we learn and grow from our failed attempts. Along our journey there are going to be storms, and we are occasionally going to fail. But, we have to understand that the worst thing that can happen is a learning experience to do it even better the next time. Failures only make us stronger and smarter and will help us travel down our own paths with more courage and determination.

So, if we take the words of Steve Jobs to heart and understand that our time is limited then we need to have the courage to follow OUR hearts and intuitions. As we start to plan our future, we must keep in mind that it is not about the destination but the journey along the way. Find your passion in life, set high expectations for your life and allow yourself to make mistakes. Take chances, be brave and most important of all, follow your heart. Because as Shing Xiong, a Chinese nobleman once stated, "In the end, it's not going to matter how many breaths you took, but how many moments took your breath away." Class of 2015, I leave you with these words, live your life and capitalize on the moments that leave you breathless, because those are the moments that will define your life's journey and its final destination.