

SPEECH OF FR. PROF. GEORGE HOBEIKA, PRESIDENT OF USEK

USEK-Georges Washington University Commencement Exercise

Class of 2018

USEK, May 11, 2018

Mrs. Ellen Peterson, Public Affairs Officer at the Embassy of the United States
of America in Beirut

Prof. George Jabbour, Associate Dean for Executive Education at GW School of
Business and Director of the GW Certificate Program in Lebanon

Prof. Elie Assaf, Dean of USEK Business School;

Reverend Fathers, members of the University Council, Professors and
Employees of USEK,

USEK-Georges Washington University graduates of Class 2018

Dear Parents, friends, colleagues,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted today to welcome you all at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik,
on this very special occasion: the 2018 commencement exercise of USEK-
Georges Washington University.

I feel honored to say that this is our **“fifth”** cohort graduating from USEK and Georges Washington University, and these years of collaboration have made us experience **not only GWU culture of Excellence, but also a culture of Authenticity and friendship.** I am sure that GWU values and culture inspired a lot in its success and supported its positioning as one of the best schools of business in the World.

This commencement exercise is also a ceremony of several years of successful partnership and commitment to graduate leaders for Lebanon and the world.

You call it: “Executive Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership”,
I call it: “Leadership Challenge Program” which not only serves professional careers but more importantly, it serves as a tool for leading a better life.

Leadership is dynamic. It changes from person to person, from moment to moment. But that doesn’t mean it doesn’t follow a pattern. And it doesn’t mean you can’t develop a level of mastery, even if you don’t possess abundant natural leadership gifts. **And this is where the challenge relies!**

Within this program, I'm confident that the greatest leadership insights have been put together, to help you understand how leadership works and how to lead others.

But from what I've experienced, what I can tell you is that you can never succeed alone, you are expected to use your position, relationships and productivity to invest in others and develop them until they become leaders in their own right. **By people development you can win champions!**

And for this let me quote John Maxwell:

“Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.”

USEK - GWU class of 2018, you should feel proud because you are empowered by this experience, proud for being part of this international experience, proud for being taught by the best, proud for being awarded for lifetime the double label of USEK and GWU.

Please let me express my most genuine appreciations to Professor Georges Jabbour, Associate Dean for Executive Education at GWU, and to Professor Elie Assaf, Dean of the USEK School of Business who both showed commitment

and leadership throughout the years to make out of this partnership a great success.

I would like to thank USEK and GWU academic and administrative teams, for their tremendous support and coordination to ensure an excellent academic experience to the students.

Thank you all for being here, your presence reflects your support to USEK and your encouragement to our graduates.

Leaders of USEK - GWU class of 2018, CONGRATULATIONS!

*******THE END*******