SPEECH FROM THE PROVOST OF VINUNIVERSITY

Prof. Tan Yap Peng
Provost of VinUniversity

Distinguished Guests, Faculty, Staff, Parents, and most importantly, our Graduating Class of 2026:

Thank you, Professor Glen, for your kind words and for the extraordinary partnership between the University of Pennsylvania and VinUniversity.

Today is not only a celebration of our graduates, but also an opportunity to recognize the people and institutions who helped make VinUniversity possible.

Over eight years, Penn has given us far more than expertise. You shared your people, your values, and your culture of excellence. You helped us build outstanding programs, develop our faculty, and cultivate a community committed to knowledge, integrity, and service. That is visible in every part of this university and in the graduates we celebrate today. For that, we are deeply grateful.

As Professor Glen noted, we are entering a new chapter. Penn has been a trusted mentor during our founding years. Going forward, we look forward to building an even stronger future together as long-term strategic partners in education, research, innovation, and healthcare, for Vietnam and for the world.

Now, let me turn to our graduates.

Class of 2026, today marks an important milestone in your life, and you should be proud of what you have achieved. Take time to celebrate, to reflect on your journey, and to thank the people who stood beside you—your parents, families, friends, mentors, and faculty. This day belongs to them as much as it belongs to you.

Your achievements speak for themselves. More than half of you have already secured employment with leading organizations. Many will continue your studies at world-renowned universities — including Penn, Cornell, and NTU. Some of you have already started building your own startups. These outcomes reflect your talent, your determination, and the strength of the VinUniversity community.

That community spirit is evident in another remarkable achievement. This year, the Class of 2026 recorded the highest participation rate ever in the VinUni Class Gift campaign. Your willingness to give back before you even graduate speaks volumes about your character, your gratitude, and your commitment to those who will follow you.

But today is not simply about where you are going. It is about who you choose to become.

As you embark on the next chapter of your life, I have three hopes for you.

First, never stop learning. Stay curious, keep growing, and strive to become the best version of yourself.

Second, live with purpose. Find meaning in your work and fulfilment in your life. Let integrity guide your decisions, humility shape your character, and empathy define how you treat others—not only when life is kind to you, but especially when it is not.

Third, make a difference. Invest in your family and friends. Build relationships that matter. Use your knowledge and your success to create opportunities for others, solve real problems, and improve the communities you are part of. Success is most meaningful when it carries others forward.

Above all, aim for something better. Work for something bigger. Strive for something greater than yourself.

There will be times when life does not go according to plan, when effort goes unrewarded, and when the path forward is uncertain. In those moments, believe in yourself. Listen to you heart. Stay true to your values, and don't let ChatGPT have the final say.

When success comes, and it will, stay humble. Remember those who helped you along the way, and reach back to help others. Your greatest legacy will not be measured by what you achieve for yourself, but by the opportunities you create for others and the lives you touch.

Wherever you go, remember that you will always be part of the VinUni family. Stay connected. Share your experiences and your accomplishments. We will always be here, rooting for you.

Congratulations, Class of 2026.

Go forward with courage to pursue your dreams, wisdom to make the right choices, and resilience to overcome every challenge. Live with purpose. Lead with integrity. Serve with compassion. May you make yourselves, your families, and all of us proud.

Thank you.