

## College of Business/Frank Ghannadian

Dear Sykes College of Business Graduates,

I want to congratulate you on this outstanding milestone in your life. Graduation is a time for celebration and a time to reflect on your successes. You have sacrificed many things to get to this point. You have sacrificed being with your family, missed many activities to study, do homework, do projects, participate in internships etc. And of course, you have made financial sacrifices to go to a prestigious university like the University of Tampa and be part of the Sykes College of Business. In addition to all the sacrifices you made, there were many around you that have helped with your success. Take a look around you and see all those who have helped you in getting to where you are now. First and foremost, your parents or other family members, friends, mentors, teachers and professors, advisors, and many more. Nobody achieves success without others helping them. I hope you will thank those who have helped you achieve what you have achieved today!

I hope you have learned a great deal of knowledge from the classes and courses you took with us. The business knowledge we have taught you during these years is valuable, and I hope that you can apply it in your jobs and future careers. Let me remind you about the Business School you are receiving a degree from. In the Sykes College of Business, we have over 100 full time faculty with outstanding qualifications, excellent credentials and a sense of duty and responsibility that is next to none. AACSB is the highest level of accreditation of business schools in the world. All our academic programs are accredited with the highest standards of AACSB. Our AACSB accreditation puts us in the top 5% of business schools in the world. Many of our programs are in the top 100 and, in some cases, in the top 50 around the world. We strive to make your education the best and recruit students and faculty from around the world. Isn't it amazing to go to a school with students and faculty from all continents in the world? I, as your dean, am humbled to have been part of this great educational experience.

I am truly honored to be your dean, as I am surrounded by great colleague faculty, great facilities and great students like you. I hope your graduation is not an end to your connection with the University of Tampa but just a beginning.

As you go into the business world, know that learning doesn't stop because of a college diploma or a graduate degree. Learning every day is the ultimate key to success. Keep learning, Keep trying, Keep accomplishing, and keep venturing until you reach your full potential in life. As Albert Einstein once said, "the important thing is not to stop questioning."

In my opinion, students coming to a University, especially business students, need the following in addition to the nuts and bolts of business:

1- We need to have more programs that help them Practice Agility / because they will need to be adaptable in this ever-changing world.

2- We need to have more programs that help them Practice more Risk taking / because they will need much more of it in this world.

Other things we now have in our curriculums to prepare our students are:

- 3- Self motivation
- 4- Communication

- 5- Problem Solving
- 6- Social and Creative Skills
- 7- Real World Problems
- 8- Thinking Skills

These are skills students cannot learn on their own. These are things we strive to teach right here at Sykes, and I am proud of our faculty and dynamic curriculum which supports it.

Some of our alumni in a recent survey stated some of our strengths: They said that they were happy to have : *“strong professors that genuinely cared about helping you learn and grow professionally.”*

*“Small class sizes allow interaction with all classmates and professors.”*

*“Meeting a lot of people from diverse cultures, working in group projects with different people with different stages in their career, and having a lot of presentations and solving real-world problems.”*

Let me recite our College Mission & Vision

Mission:

Preparing students to succeed in the  
global marketplace through educational excellence

Vision:

To be recognized as the leading business school in the southeast for preparing future world business leaders.

At SYKES we have the future of business in mind. The future entails many things. A study of 2600 detailed profiles of candidates for CEO, CFO, COO and other top positions questioned: What makes a Leader? They found five important traits:

1. General Ability :Here the CEO's would need: high standards, to honor their commitments, work efficiently, have a large network, be aggressive, be fast and be proactive.
2. Execution: Successful CEO's set goals for their teams, follow up with continuous review processes and hold people accountable for shortfalls.
3. Having Charisma: Having enthusiasm, being persuasive, moving fast, being aggressive and being proactive. Remember that being Charismatic is a learned trait and we teach that in our leadership classes here at UT.
4. Being Creative . Executives need to be creative and use their resources to stay ahead of all the coming changes. (An innovative mind is important in the coming years)
5. Having a Strategic Mind : Being focused and identifying key success factors and aligning all in the organization is the key.

From me, the staff and faculty of the Sykes College of Business: Congratulations and wishing you a great celebration! And a great future! We are here to serve you for many more years and welcome you on becoming an alumni of the University of Tampa and the Sykes College of Business.

Frank Ghannadian