



Greeting by HEDNO Chairman and CEO Mr. N. Chatziargyriou at the award of commendations and gift offerings to children of HEDNO's active and retired employees for the academic year 2016-2017

Good evening,

My dear students,

I am extremely happy to be here today, in this event that has become a permanent fixture in our company. And I am honored, as HEDNO's Chairman and CEO, to award these commendations to you all, for a third consecutive year.

This event is exclusively dedicated to you and to your tireless efforts to climb up the ladder of knowledge and success.

As a professor, I do know very well what it takes to reach your goal. And I am well aware that these past years, the road to success has become extremely rough in this country, due to these adverse conditions.

But I do know that all of you here today are true fighters, and true fighters do not give up on their dreams: they strive for excellence.

As a professor, I would also like to congratulate your families. All of us who have worked in education know very well that excellence is a matter of self-determination, but family support is a crucial factor.

So, congratulations to you and to everyone has been there for you to offer their support.



I believe that tourism is not the 'heavy industry' for Greece. Although it does help in reinforcing our economy, it is a rather unstable sector that is easily affected by local geopolitics. Our true heavy industry is the brain power of the young ones who have built their skills and knowledge in the schools and the universities of this country's, much unappreciated and deprecated, educational system.

You are the hope for our future, and at this point, I would like to emphasize how important your progress is to HEDNO, a large company and one of the leaders in the electricity market.

HEDNO's future, the future of every viable business relies on young people, on new skills and specialized knowledge.

Congratulations to all and each one of you!

And remember that...

Most of you are just twenty and you don't have much to think about in terms of work or family obligations. So now is the time to:

- Challenge yourselves
- Take risks
- Be innovative
- Be original
- Explore
- Be open to education

Remember that...

Other than just knowledge, success requires more skills, such as:



- **Ambition:** Set your goals and a vision, and don't give up on them, no matter what people say.
- **Teamwork:** Teamwork is essential to professional success and the most successful teams are the ones who acknowledge their weaknesses and work hard to fix them. As leaders in your team you should be able to set the right goals, to guide and encourage your team members towards success with zest and passion. You should be able to choose the right people and tell what each has to offer, and bring out the best in them to the benefit of your goals. You should have the courage to take corrective action, to accept other people's opinions and assess alternatives. You should assume responsibility for failure and share praise for success.
- **Love for life:** Studying is not the only source of joy and happiness (although these can give us great joy and happiness too). Don't forget to spend time with friends, to engage in sports, to experience art, nature, science, knowledge. And through this love for all aspects of life, you will become a complete, well-rounded person.

Excellence must be a choice for you, not an obligation.

Once again, congratulations on your accomplishment and all the best for a brilliant career and most importantly, a joyful and successful life.