Good (Morning/Afternoon/Evening)

On behalf (constituent/component) Board and members, I bring you greetings and sincere wishes for success.

I am honored to be able to share this very special occasion with you. There are many happy moments in life, but from personal experience, I can tell you, graduating from dental hygiene school is one of the best. I remember well the feeling of joy that washes over you when you receive your degree and realize the future that you have been planning for is here.

And what a future lies before you in dental hygiene. We are so lucky to be in a profession where every day at work, we have the opportunity to make difference in someone’s life. Awareness of the importance of good oral health is at an all time high. Researchers are hard at work discovering the links between oral and systemic health. Industry is constantly developing new products to help make our jobs and patient self-care easier.

In every great dental practice, there is a great dental hygienist. As clinicians we wear many hats; often the teacher, sometimes the taskmaster, and always the advocate for your employer, your practice, and your patient.

Opportunities for dental hygienists are boundless. In the near future, those who want to enhance their clinical career may be able to pursue the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner degree or seek out credentialing in specialties such a pediatrics, geriatrics, or Periodontontology. We need people to teach dental hygiene and practice in public health. The corporate world employs dental hygienists in many areas such as sales, marketing, or research and development.

So, as you can see, your future as a dental hygienist is bright and opportunities are as big as you can dream.

It would also be perfectly normal if, in the midst of all this excitement, you had some fear and anxiety too. Such as; how will I find the ‘right’ job; can I really get a patient completed in one hour; or how will I possible see that many patients in a single day!

You have received a great education here, and I have every confidence that like all the classes before you who had similar concerns, you too will successfully meet these challenges.

But you don’t have to do it alone. The (Constituent) Dental Hygienists Association and (component) are here for you. We are committed to helping you be a great dental hygienist. After all, who knows dental hygienists needs better than other dental hygienists.
Sample script for dental hygiene graduation / pinning ceremony.

At the state level, we can help connect you with one of our XX local components. What is a component? It is your dental hygiene home. Component members work, live, and are active in the local community. They champion causes such as “Give Kids a Smile Day”, Y-Me Breast Cancer Walk, Diabetes Fair. And most importantly, they provide support and friendship to their members and any dental hygienist who walks through the door. Many components meet monthly giving you frequent opportunity for life-long learning and networking.

Now, you’ve just graduated and you might be thinking you don’t need continuing education. Well, that is technically true in terms of your first re-licensure period, but in reality, right after graduation is one of the times you most need continuing education. Great dental hygienists are learners. Knowledgeable speakers can deepen your understanding of many of the common topics in dentistry today. Couple this with interaction with experienced practitioners and you are on your way to a successful work life.

It has been said that “Real success is finding your life work in the work that you love.” If you love dental hygiene as much as I do, I have no doubts about your success.

This day is about you. You have completed the longest leg in your journey to be a dental hygienist. Enjoy this moment. You deserve it.

Let me end by wishing you my deepest congratulations and warmest wishes for happiness and success.