Inspiring Messages of Encouragement from White Coat Campaign 2014

“Congratulations on admission to medical school. Your path will have its challenges, but it is well worth the journey. You have been given an opportunity to enter a profession with a long history of honoring an oath to your patients and yourself. Remember to balance the professional and personal sides of your life. Fulfillment comes from both.”

—Susan Gedanke, MD

“Wear your new white coat with pride. It took a lot of hard work and sacrifice to get to this point. I still have a white coat in my closet and I’ve been retired for 17 years! Be alert, pay attention, and don’t let the art of medicine pass you by. I recently had an ER visit and after it was completed realized that no doctor had touched me to examine me. The art is only recognized when you use your eyes, ears and hands to evaluate illness. Don’t become a mechanical/electrical MD. Make it a point to see your patient, to understand your patient and to respect your patient.”

—Philip Pier, MD

“Dear colleague, Welcome to a journey that will bring you to some of the highest highs and lowest lows of your life. You will be in position to touch people’s lives at times when they are most vulnerable. It is indeed an honor to share these moments and be in a position to impact lives. Our profession is not merely an occupation, it is a vocation and a life of service to others. Never lose sight of your purpose and duty. Blessings on your journey.”

—Ellen Schumann, MD

“Dear future physician, Congratulations on embarking on a most rewarding career. Although there will be times when you feel the long days of work and study aren’t worth it, and that you’ll never be good enough, you’ll be wrong. You are good enough and you’ll be grateful that you persisted. If you work hard and remain ever-open to learning, you will be competent and, eventually, you will find balance in your life. Good luck!”

—Doctors Rachel and Daniel Bennett

“Dear medical student, Welcome to the world of medicine. I feel that you have chosen the most fulfilling and rewarding career imaginable. I say this at age 87, after spending 46 years as a family physician in a rural Wisconsin setting. I delivered 3,243 babies as part of a busy FP. You, too, will be a Healer, a Teacher, and a Friend to your patients. Take being a Physician seriously. It is a great honor and the opportunity and thrill of lifelong learnings is unsurpassed. I wish you Good Luck and the Best.”

—Robert Starr, MD

“Congratulations on having earned your white coat! It’s a great step on the way to achieving your goal of becoming a physician. Work hard, play hard, and pay just as much attention to learning the skill of human interaction as you do to learning facts and procedures. Do your best to keep your sense of self and the powerful responsibility of your profession!”

—Gregg Heatley, MD

“Medicine is complex and challenging every day of the week. It will be a long road, but I know that you will be up to the challenge. There is a lot of help for you every step of the way. Substantial rewards await you! Good luck.”

—Peter Rahko, MD

“You are the future of medicine…“…no pressure! But it is true. You have chosen a path that will be challenging you to the limits of your abilities, but also bring you the greatest satisfaction you dare to imagine. This year marks my 10 year anniversary of finishing my fellowship and 21 years of graduating from medical school, and I can say it has been the best decision of my life to become a physician and I would have not wanted to do anything else. Being a pediatric anesthesiologist has blessed me more than I could have ever imagined…and I hope and pray that medicine will be the same to you.”

—Rose Campise-Luther, MD