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[Tools and Resources](#)
[MC Community](#)
[Project and Team Sites](#)
[People Place](#)
[Site Actions](#)
[Quick Links](#)

[Browse](#)
[Page](#)
[Publish](#)

[MC Central Home](#) > [Ajay Banga Delivers Message of Equality and Diversity to Business School Graduates](#)

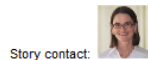


Ajay at the podium at the NYU Stern School of Business commencement ceremony.

Highlights

- Ajay delivered the commencement speech to the graduates of the NYU Stern School of Business.
- Stern is one of the oldest and most prestigious business schools in the world.
- He talked about the importance of diversity and business as a force for good in the world; examples include our work with the UN World Food Programme and African governments.

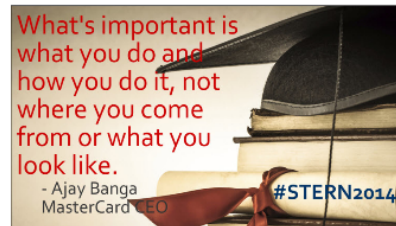
Ajay Banga Delivers Message of Equality and Diversity to Business School Graduates



Story contact: [Lester, Mary](#) on: 5/28/2014

CEO Ajay Banga addressed the graduates of the NYU Stern School of Business on May 22 with a message on the importance of diversity and his belief that business can be a force for good in the world.

In his remarks, he reflected on his own business school experience and the necessity of diversity saying "diversity is what drives better insights, better decisions and better products. It's what defines a great leadership culture." He then offered graduates four attributes for that culture: agility, balance, thoughtful risks and 'competitive paranoia.'



Each graduate received a NYU torch pin as a part of the ceremony. Ajay concluded by saying "you've been handed a torch to a future of greater diversity and better business that can truly light the way to a better, more equal world."

Read the [full speech](#) on MC Central.

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Brewster, Jean 5/30/2014 11:36 AM

Loved this speech...my favorite part, "diversity is what drives better insights, better decisions, and better products". Thank you, Ajay for the profound messages!



Ling, Hai 5/30/2014 5:02 AM

Wow, as always, a great speech. Very personal and inspiring!



Achar, Gowri 5/29/2014 5:17 PM

Great speech! Very inspiring and great advice for anybody doing anything. I agree with Grayson, every child should be taught about this from a very early age. You have to be comfortable with your self and What's important is what you do and how you do it, not where you come from or how you look. Diversity makes the world better and beautiful! Proud to have Ajay as our leader.



Nelson, Grayson 5/28/2014 11:08 AM

"But I realized very early in my career that if I weren't comfortable with myself, then I couldn't succeed. It's critical that you figure out who you are and be comfortable with it. What's important is what you do and how you do it, not where you come from or what you look like. That's going to be very important for your future." Ajay is right-on with this sage advice! This is lesson every human on the planet should be told as a child. One of the



Lester, Mary



reasons I love living in Austin, Texas is the diversity and acceptance of all types of people. We each have different gifts and talents and if we were all the same, how dull a world this would be. I wish I had received this type of advice as a young person embarking on my adult path! But, I was well into my 30s before I learned to be true to myself and not try to compare my insides to others' outsides. I just love Ajay Banga and his leadership style! So proud to have him at the helm of MasterCard!



Carroll, Elena 5/28/2014 10:00 AM

It is great to see Ajay speaking at my alma mater with such an inspirational message



Redington, Michael 5/27/2014 5:07 PM

Thanks for sharing the full speech. I enjoyed the quotes, themes and am sure the students got to enjoy the delivery!



Dix, Simon 5/27/2014 3:14 PM

I have a feeling I am going to be re-using this quote quite often going forward: "if you have good news for me, take the stairs...if you have bad news, take the elevator." A great speech which seems to have a lot of relevance to our internal activities and initiatives.



Smith, Jennifer 5/27/2014 2:46 PM

Great speech - I love the message/theme of diversity and its importance



Kundu, Saroni 5/27/2014 1:47 PM

Great speech! I used a quote from Ajay to inspire and encourage my team, it really works!



Bowins, Andrew 5/27/2014 9:21 AM

Love the speech, energy in the room and reaction from graduates. A terrific confirmation for the things that I personally love about working at MasterCard and the strength of our brand to do well by doing good. Well done.

