Commencement Remarks by R.C.C. Alumni Association President Kodjo Agblekpe ‘09.
Friday, May 30, 2014

Thank you Vice President Ms. Cecile M. Regner, Dr. Roberson, faculty, staff, family, friends, Board of Trustees Members, and the Roxbury Community College at Roxbury class of 2014. On behalf of the Roxbury Community College Alumni Association Executive Board Members, congratulations on your graduation. It’s with great pleasure that I welcome each of you to our Alumni Association.

It’s my honor to stand before you today to share this special graduation ceremony with you, our future leaders of tomorrow, as you close this period of your life and begin your new journey. Dr. Martin Luther King postulated that “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically... Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education”.

I believe that the Roxbury Community College teaches you, empower you with the knowledge and skills to make your dreams come true. To quote Leonard Sweet, “The future is not something we enter. The future is something we create” and it’s true that you create your own future to attend the Roxbury Community College and earn your certificate or associate degree in any major of your choice.

I hope that as you leave Roxbury Community College today, you take with you many loving memories of time spent here at R.C.C. This school has been your second “home” and even sometimes first “home” for these past few years as well as the place you chose to achieve your academic goals because you have to do the school assignments and turn them in to receive your grades. It’s also place for me in the past as student and now I am part of the Alumni Association Executive Board. R.C.C. not only is an exceptional education institution, but it’s a college where the faculty members know you by name and you make new friendship forever.

When we look at the world we live in today, it’s not easy to find a good investment I mean a life time investment. You make the best decision to invest in you and the degree that you take with you today is one of the best human capital investments
that you will ever make. Your degree will always remain with you throughout your life and it will definitely pay lasting dividends to you, and to the world including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Malcom X stated that “education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today”.

As you maneuver your way through life’s twists and turns, you will be faced with challenges, choices, sorrow and joys. But, no matter where that life takes you—whether you will be a teacher, a doctor, a professor, lawyer, nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, author, and poet like Maya Angelo, U.S. Senator like Elisabeth Warren, U.N. diplomat, an economist, a journalist, a chancellor, a tutor, or public officials, one constant will... you will always be a part of the Roxbury Community College and the Alumni Association for life. Your fellow Alumni can be found in your community, from the Greater Boston, Roxbury, surrounding communities, in United Stated and around the world.

One of the Roxbury Community College Alumni Association main goals is to help you stay connected with your fellow graduates, as well as others who have walked on this stage since 1975. Let me leave you with word of wisdom “patience, self-control, kindness, joy, peace and love” must be your fruit of Spirit. It will empower you to become successful Graduates. I urge each one of you to keep the “Fruit of the Spirit” in mind throughout your life.

On behalf of the Roxbury Community College Alumni Association, congratulations “Class of 2014”. I wish you all the best on your graduation and I hope to meet many of you at future Alumni events this year. Your Alumni I.D. card will be ready this year.

Kodjo Agblekpe,
Roxbury Community College Alumni Association President ‘09