

## **A SHORT SPEECH BY GUERINO FIGLINO**

### Student Representative on the Bocconi University Board

Thank you, it's been a pleasure to listen to the incredible speeches that have been shared here today. I feel tremendous pride and honor to be a part of such a special occasion. I want to extend greetings, on behalf of the entire student community, to our distinguished guest Dr. Okonjo-Iweala and thank her for being here with us today.

I spent a lot of time in the past few days trying to figure out what I was going to say today, or what message I wanted to pass on. As I begin the final phase of my academic journey, I ultimately decided to attempt and express what this place means to me and what is the most important lesson it has taught me so far.

The intrinsic characteristic of this place, or the magic if you want to call it that, is to always test our limits, not just academic-wise, but also character-wise, relationship-wise, and ultimately human-wise. Even though often it does feel overwhelming, this way I learned to appreciate the feeling of being consistently challenged and use that to learn more about myself and grow.

Walking around campus every year as I return after the summer break, I can just feel the energy in the air and the excitement for what's in store for the new chapter. The variety and the dynamism that it has to offer is something I never would have imagined before coming here. Sure, I had some expectations, but I just couldn't predict the amount of people I would meet, the activities I would take part in, and the stimuli that I would be exposed to. Take it from someone who wasn't, entirely sure about the path he would take, you can ask my mom, she's right there.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of a new academic year, we find ourselves in a place teeming with opportunities. They are not just confined to classrooms and lecture halls, but they await us at every twist and turn of this vibrant campus. The right opportunity can be a transformative force. It can manifest in the most unexpected of ways perhaps through joining an association that aligns with your passion or stepping onto the field as part of a sports team. It could be the study session in the library with classmates, where ideas collide or, perhaps, it's the casual aperitivo after class, where connections are forged, and friendships grow.

Before closing, I would like to thank our esteemed Rector, Professor Billari, our President, Professor Sironi, the Managing Director, Mr. Taranto, and the entire administration for granting me this chance to speak and leave you with the wish for an academic year full of new experiences.