

## Opening Address at the Inaugural Degree Project Public Presentation

Thank you very much for participating in today's public presentation of the Eikei University of Hiroshima Degree Project. Eikei University opened in April 2021 and send its first graduates out into the world in the coming March. The students going to make presentations today are the first batch of Eikei University of Hiroshima, and over the past four years they have been creating a new university history. You will be able to see the culmination of their learning at Eikei University.

Eikei University has been aiming to establish a new educational model that is not biased toward traditional knowledge. In a society where the future is becoming increasingly uncertain, we aim to nurture changemakers who can understand the big picture of the social system in which they play an active role, draw their own dreams, and realize them to bring about positive change in society. We have named the necessary abilities as competencies and have aimed to cultivate them. The degree project is also a place where the competencies that students have acquired are evaluated.

The competencies we consider to be the five qualities of global collaboration, foresight, strategy, execution, and self-improvement. Students should have acquired the knowledge to grasp society from a bird's-eye view and the skills necessary to dream and realize their dreams, and further deepened their learning by experiencing how these skills are useful through hands-on experience programs and problem-solving exercises. In problem-solving exercises, students experience a double spiral in which they create new value by tackling real social issues and deepen their learning.

I believe that the efforts of faculty members and staff, especially the primary advisors, were crucial in helping the students advance their graduation projects. For the students, this project also represents the culmination of their four years of learning at Eikei University. Both students and faculty have created new learning experiences that are different from traditional university education and have made new history. Although it may not be possible to say that new learning and the cultivation of competencies have been fully completed, I hope that you will be able to see what the students have achieved today and give us any advice you may have.

Thank you for joining us today.