

*Kaupunginjohtajan puhe Aalto-yliopiston opiskelijoille Mikkelin yliopistokeskuksella
lukuvuoden avajaisissa 22.8.2023*

Thank you Joan and rest of the crew, for inviting me here. It's such a great moment to meet you all.

Hello and welcome to Mikkeli!

Mikkeli is the capital of South Savo area with about 52,000 inhabitants. Mikkeli is known, among other things, for Lake Saimaa, the famous market square, pure and organic food, wood industry, military history and the good life with lot of opportunities: Here in Mikkeli you don't have to sit in traffic jams, and at the same time you can enjoy both urban life and the countryside.

And let's not forget cultural, sports and hobby opportunities or our central location on the map of Finland. Travelling to Mikkeli is quite simple from other regions and our region is also a very popular summer cottage area.

Dear students

You are part of the vitality of Mikkeli. The city sets out to build new success with solid cooperation, to which stakeholders have been invited.

Both our companies and our educational institutions play an important role in terms of our vitality. The students bring cheer and excitement to our streets, restaurants and events. The universities operating in our city fulfill their important educational mission.

Internationality is also a key to success. New business, new innovations and motivation are elements that we need in Mikkeli. The work for bright future has begun.

From the city's perspective, one of the most important goals is to help students integrate into Mikkeli. Of course, the ideal situation would always be for the student to find a job and life here after

graduating.

Cooperation with educational institutions and companies creates the basis for this. **This work should go on.** And new ideas are mostly welcome.

I hope you all have a good time in Mikkeli. Let the city and environment surprise you! I encourage you to keep your eyes open for chances that Mikkeli provides.

Thank you. I wish you all the best! I hope we stay in touch!