College of Education class of 2020 - you made it!! My heartfelt congratulations to each of you on your graduation. You have worked hard along this journey, developed new ways of seeing and engaging with the world, expanded your networks and developed as a person and a professional. You have reached this milestone with the help and support of your family and loved ones, and your faculty and staff.

While the past few months have caught us all by surprise and have proven to be challenging at best, you stood up to this challenge, you stuck with it, you were courageous, you showed resilience and you graduated!

I am disappointed not to be celebrating this special occasion in person with you today, but I will look forward to us getting together, hopefully later this Fall, to celebrate your graduating class.

Today, we have 1,828 new College of Education graduates earning undergraduate, credential, masters and doctoral degrees. Our awesome graduates, you are now part of a family of College of Education alumni - a family with over 45,000 members - and growing!

On this special day I encourage you to embrace life and live it to the fullest - don’t put things off for later or wait till the time is right. If we have learned one thing from this pandemic, it is to seize the moment and when an opportunity presents itself, don’t second guess yourself, be courageous and move forward. Be the positive influence that radiates energy and shines a light on those around you.

Class of 2020- I am so proud of all you have accomplished and have high expectations for your ongoing success. As you leave Cal State Long Beach, remember that we are your academic home. Stay in touch with us and let us know about your ongoing achievements, support the next generation of students at The Beach, and give back.

On behalf of the College’s faculty and staff, my warm congratulations to you.

Go Beach! Go Teach! Go Lead!