

Dear Graduates, CONGRATULATIONS!!

I am thrilled to be able to say these words to you today. This past year has been educational in ways that none of us anticipated yet you all have persisted in your endeavor to earn your degrees in Math and Science. I am exceptionally proud of each and every one of you.

Earning a bachelor's degree or a master's degree takes a lot of hard work. Earning it now, when we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic where the situation seems to change daily is exceptional.

All of you should be proud of yourselves. Persevering in science and mathematics to get a degree is a testament to your inner strength, your determination, and your willingness to sacrifice now for a better tomorrow. Well done!

As you celebrate your accomplishments, I ask that you also reflect on what has made it possible for you to get here. Take a moment to thank all of those who helped you get here, be it your close friends, your classmates, or your chosen family.

Today is a good day to thank those around you. Indeed, particularly as we see the world beginning to open up, what better time to reach out and ensure that those around you know how much you appreciate their love and respect, as well as their support throughout the last many years.

This year we will not all be physically together, nor can I share a congratulatory handshake with you as you cross the stage. Nonetheless, as you share your celebratory moments with your family, I want you to know that the CNSM faculty are cheering on your success. We are happy to see you embark on the next step of your life's journey. We applaud you, both virtually and in person. Together, the faculty of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, the associate deans, and I celebrate your accomplishments, wish you success as you journey on, and hold close in our hearts how you have pressed on during this unique and challenging time to meet this goal.

Let me close by simply saying:

CONGRATULATIONS to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics graduating class of 2021!