

Congratulations to all of the students graduating from the College of Business in Spring 2020!

I am Michael Solt, Dean of the College of Business, and I am proud and happy to recognize our 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students who are receiving their degrees this semester.

I would be even happier if we were in our typical venue, which is outdoors under beautiful California skies, but I could not be more proud of how this college—students, faculty, and staff—has coped with the COVID-19 crisis and completed the semester.

Normally, I would be sharing words of wisdom such as never be afraid to take opportunities that present themselves, or success in business is about people and relationships, or even things like don't forget to call your mother and floss your teeth every day. But nothing is normal about this year.

Yet, there are many lessons we all have learned this semester. One is that unforeseen risks beyond anyone's control can happen and we must respond immediately. Another is that we can make quick adjustments that will lead to acceptable results. Also, in times of crisis our focus turns to doing the best we can under the circumstances, even if we cannot be perfect.

A key ingredient has been the willingness of everyone to tackle the unknown and to trust that if we all work together, we can prevail. So, in the end, it is still about people and relationships. I also believe that we have each gained a resiliency, and even courage and strength, to know that we can overcome whatever challenges life throws at us.

As we overcome this crisis, however long that might be, the education that the College of Business has provided you will help you in your jobs and advance you in your careers. This might be hard to imagine with more than 20 million Americans out of work and unemployment reaching 15%. But whenever the recovery comes, your College of Business education will position you to add value to your employers, have a positive impact on our local communities, and continue on the path of achieving the American dream.

In closing, let me congratulate you again on achieving this important milestone. I would also like to thank all of your families and loved ones who have helped you complete your degrees. And I would like to welcome you to the College of Business alumni network that has grown to nearly 50,000 alums! You have worked hard and deserve to enjoy this achievement. Even though we are currently facing uncertainty, I am confident that you will soon be on the road to success. Best wishes for a great future!