

Congratulations to all of the students graduating from the College of Business in Spring 2021!

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

The dictionary tells us that to graduate means “to pass from one stage of experience or proficiency to another, usually a higher one.” Completing your undergraduate or graduate studies and starting the next stage of your journey certainly fits this definition.

For our undergraduate students, the College of Business has provided you the foundation for a wonderful career with a favorable trajectory that moves you to greater and greater success over time. For our MBA and MS students, your College of Business education will advance your career success by increasing the arc of your trajectory.

The College of Business has many parts that helped you graduate. Our excellent faculty and dedicated staff are central to your degree success. But SCPD, the Center for Student Success, the tutoring center, the Open Access Computer Lab, the ABSOC room, and even the tables and chairs for eating and studying next to the building have all been important to the life of the college.

Pre-pandemic, we would all be experiencing the life of the college in person in the same building! Our on-campus destination usually would be the College of Business to do whatever was on our calendar that day.

The pandemic changed that overnight, and we all have had to conduct our work and studies virtually. We all have become proficient in Zoom!

Along the way, we learned that unforeseen risks can happen and that we can make rapid adjustments that lead to acceptable results. We learned to do the best we can, even if we cannot be perfect.

A key ingredient has been the willingness to trust that if we all work together, we can prevail. As a result, we have each gained a resiliency, and even courage and strength, to know that we can overcome whatever challenges life throws at us.

We in the college have done our best to prepare you with the knowledge, tools, and skills needed to have an excellent career. But President Conoley reminds us that for Cal State Long Beach, the public good is our responsibility too, so I encourage you to engage with and give back to your local community as you gain success on your career path.

In closing, congratulations again on achieving this important milestone. I thank all of your families and loved ones who have helped you complete your degree. And I welcome you to the College of Business alumni network that has grown to over 53,000 alums! You have worked hard and deserve to enjoy this achievement. Even though we are currently facing an uncertain economy, I am confident that you will soon be on the road to success. Best wishes for a great future!

