

Chancellor Castro 2021 Commencement Video

Greetings to the Class of 2021. It's my great pleasure and a true privilege to offer just a few thoughts and words of congratulations on this most momentous occasion.

In my experience, Commencement is always a little bittersweet, with one chapter of your life ending as a new one, full of excitement and promise begins. And I bet that is especially true this year. I'm sure you are feeling overwhelming joy made even more special as it is shared with family and friends, along with a well-earned sense of pride at this truly remarkable accomplishment and maybe even a little relief now that your last finals are in the rear-view mirror.

But undoubtedly, you are feeling a little disappointment too. After all, the last year and a half of your college experience was not what you'd expected. It's not what any of us could have expected or anticipated. I understand, and I am sorry. But my hope for you – no, my assured prediction – is that, over time, you will begin to notice that disappointment displaced by something else. By a growing realization, eventually, an absolute confidence that the ingenuity, adaptability, endurance, resilience and resolve that you have relied upon to meet the extraordinary challenges presented by this extraordinary time, have turned you into an unstoppable force.

With these qualities which you've demonstrated again and again, coupled with the knowledge and skills that you've developed over the course of your academic journey, there is no obstacle you can't overcome. There is no personal, professional, or academic challenge you can't conquer. There is no goal that's too bold. And whether you are trailblazing a path as the first in your family to graduate from college, or carrying on a legacy of higher education that spans generations, your impact on your family, your community, our state and our nation is boundless. So, dream big, then dream a little bigger.

It's been my great honor to congratulate many graduating classes over the course of my career and education, and I plan to congratulate many more. I've been impressed by them all, proud of everyone. But you will always hold a special place in my heart. I will forever remember and admire your spirit, your determination, and your achievements. Your future is bright. Your future is limitless.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!