

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** April 27, 2020  
**TO:** Graduating Seniors  
**FROM:** President Thomas A. Parham., Ph.D.  
**SUBJECT:** Celebrating the Class of 2020



Dear Class of 2020,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your life. The degree you have earned is a testament to the hard work, commitment, discipline, and perseverance you and your peers have demonstrated. You represent the latest cohort to cross this threshold where your trajectory to greater levels of possibility and potential is significantly enhanced. Please accept my congratulations, and know that I could not be more proud of your accomplishment.

One of the most disappointing side effects of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak for those of us at CSUDH has been the postponement of 2020 Commencement exercises. These ceremonies were originally scheduled for May 15 and 16 of this year. Commencement is one the most important events on the university calendar. It is an occasion to celebrate all that you have done with family and friends, whether you are a first-generation college graduate reaching that educational landmark, or a graduate student receiving your hard-earned Masters' degree.

It is heartbreaking to think that we won't be able to conduct the official commencement ceremony as scheduled, where validating your academic journey and accomplishments is one of our greatest joys. Rest assured however, that your achievements will not be forgotten or bypassed due to the pandemic. We will find an appropriate way to recognize your achievements at the end of this calendar year or in 2021.

We are committed to holding commencement ceremonies for our Toro graduates, and our Ceremonies and Events staff will be working diligently to reschedule those ceremonies once we are confident that we can do so safely, amid guidance from government officials and public health advisors. Unfortunately, as of this date, we can make no promises about when that will be. Despite that, I am pleased to announce that CSUDH is organizing a recognition week, May 12-16, to virtually celebrate our graduates and their achievements.

We hope that everyone who had originally planned to join you at commencement will be able to attend the rescheduled ceremonies, whenever those occur. I understand that this is a far from an ideal situation, but we are absolutely committed to protecting your health and safety, and that of your family and friends.

More detailed information about CSUDH's rescheduled commencement, and our week of planned recognitions and highlights, will be sent to you as they become available. In the meantime, know that the faculty, staff, senior administration, and I congratulate you and your families, on this consequential achievement.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Parham  
President