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Virtual Degree Conferral

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on Sunday, May 10, 2020

Location: Hendricks Chapel

Remarks: Virtual Degree Conferral

Hello, I am Kent Syverud, Chancellor of Syracuse University. On behalf of all of us at the University, I welcome the graduating class of 2020 and all of your friends, family, and loved ones.

I stand now on the steps of Hendricks Chapel on this spring day. We had all hoped to be together here on this happy day. That is now a hope deferred to the fall, when we plan to formally mark your Commencement.

But today, we will confer your degrees and you will become the newest graduates of Syracuse University. Today, we honor your years of hard work and sacrifice and joy and accomplishment at Syracuse.

We also thank those who have supported you – faculty, staff, parents, siblings, family and friends – all who have supported you during your academic career here at Syracuse.

Today we are conferring more than 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 2,800 graduate and professional degrees. Our graduates came to Syracuse from across the United States, from 50 different countries, and from many indigenous nations.

We talk a lot here about being Orange, and about the values that encompasses. In the last few months, the class of 2020 have shown us all what orange truly means. No one could have been fully prepared for the adversity you have all faced. But you have responded with resilience and grace. Your creativity, wisdom and innovative spirit has defined the class of 2020 at its best.

We all thank you.

The class of 2020 has been achieving great things since the day you stepped onto this campus.

Indeed, for the last 150 years, Syracuse University has been blessed by wonderful graduates. You all continue that tradition. We are all proud of what you have achieved thus far, and we look forward to seeing all of the extraordinary things you will do in the future.

Congratulations and thank you.

Closing and Degree Conferral

Thank you, Provost Liu. Following action by the University Senate and authorization by the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University, I now confer upon each of you the degrees appropriate to your course of study. The diploma you have earned gives you all the rights, responsibilities and honors pertaining to that degree. Congratulations, graduates!

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