



May 17, 2021

To SUNY Poly Faculty and Staff:

With the 2020-2021 academic year successfully completed, I am pleased to share my admiration for all the work that you have undertaken, culminating in the facilitation of memorable and inspiring graduation events for students who received their graduate or undergraduate degrees.

As I stated in my event remarks, the ceremonies may not have been what our students expected when they arrived at SUNY Poly, but they will certainly be memorable. The celebration of this transitional moment provided an excellent highlight of our students' persistence against the backdrop of the global pandemic. I am proud that we not only celebrated the Class of '21, but that we also provided an opportunity to honor members of the Class of '20 as they, too, deserved. If you haven't already, I encourage you to [visit our commencement webpage](#) to view videos and other commencement-focused resources.

Your efforts helped these students achieve their academic success, which will position them well to pursue the opportunities they have dreamed about. In addition, by adapting quickly to the latest COVID-19 protocols, you made it possible for our newest alumni to celebrate meaningfully with a number of family or friends in as safe a manner as possible.

As I have also noted, some of the academic challenges that we have overcome during this pandemic, such as meeting students more directly via increased online options, have prepared us for an even stronger and more versatile future. Because of you, we are building a more vibrant SUNY Poly that our alumni can feel even more proud about over time.

Together, we marked this important milestone in our graduating students' lives, and I was thrilled to stand with them and play a role in these celebrations.

Now, I look forward to working together and making plans to further forge ahead this fall.

Thank you for endeavoring to make SUNY Poly such a special place each day.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tod A. Laursen  
Acting President  
SUNY Polytechnic Institute