

School of Social Welfare

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September 28, 2020

Dear Class of 2020 Graduate:

I hope you are safe and well in these challenging times. Your graduation from Stony Brook University in the midst of a global pandemic is a testament to your dedication and perseverance. I know how disappointing it was to finish your final months at Stony Brook in a remote environment and to miss out on some of the key rituals, traditions and occasions that we usually commemorate together as a community.

The Class of 2020 will always be remembered as participants in our first, historic Virtual Degree Conferral Ceremony who found unique and innovative ways to share your celebrations with each other and with your friends.

It had been my hope that with the arrival of fall there would be a return to a sense of normalcy and that we would be able to invite you to our Winter Commencement Ceremony. Regrettably, COVID-19 still poses many challenges. Following current New York State guidance, we are not able to resume large, in-person gatherings and cannot host the Winter Commencement Ceremony.

If you wish to participate in a future Commencement Ceremony when it is safe to do so, please <u>note</u> <u>your interest here</u> and continue to visit our Commencement website at <u>stonybrook.edu/commencement</u> for updates.

Though we are unable to celebrate with you in person at this time, I hope you know that as a member of the Class of 2020 you continue to make us especially proud. Stay Stony Brook Strong and do stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline B. Mondros, D.S.W. Dean and Assistant Vice President for Social Determinants of Health



