

DEAN REMARKS:

DSH: Hello. I am Deborah Smith-Howell, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean for Graduate Studies. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the graduate faculty, to congratulate each of you receiving your graduate degree today. Completing a master's or doctorate degree always requires tremendous resilience and perseverance which will continue to serve you well in these unprecedented times. I know this is not the ceremony you expected – regardless of format, it is important that we honor your achievements at this time. Also, please remember, that you are invited to participate in our planned December ceremonies. Commencement is one of those unique times when we think about the past, the present, and the future all at the same time. I hope you are thinking about your journey to your degree today—remembering the

faculty, fellow students, family and friends who supported you along the way, I hope you also find a way to celebrate this very moment of achievement and completion—you deserve a celebration! Also keep looking forward to the journey ahead. The value of a graduate degree is much more than the letters after your name, or a document on a wall: it is the intangible collection of personalized experiences, research, skills and knowledge you have accumulated that empowers you to contribute to something greater. This has never been more important.

Think back to when you decided to embark on a graduate degree. Remember your motivation and eagerness to challenge yourself. Remember the commitment you made and the determination that drove you. As you move forward, keep that same spirit. Remain motivated. Be passionate in all that you do. Continue to challenge yourself.

As individuals with advanced degrees, you have more opportunity than ever to influence and impact the world around us. Some of you will continue your research. Some of you will make your mark in business, nonprofits or government. Others will make advancements in technology, science, public service, arts and culture, education, and humanities. No matter the discipline, you are and will continue to make a difference in the life of our community, state, and nation. We need your intellect, your experiences, and your passion.

You graduate today but commencement is not really about endings—it is about beginnings. Congratulations graduates of the University of Nebraska at Omaha! We, the faculty and staff at UNO, are enormously proud of you. Remember –once a Maverick, always a Maverick—Go Mavs!

■ **Insert Marshall text--- in teleprompter/Richard**

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SPEAKER:

DSH: Receiving today, his Master of Arts in sociology,

Zachary Christo (*Zak-a-ree Kriss-toh*) will speak on behalf of
the Class of 2020.

(Video transition to STUDENT SPEAKER.)

STUDENT SPEAKER:

CHRISTO: Members of the Board of Regents, Chancellor

Gold, Distinguished Faculty, Esteemed Fellow

Graduates and Honored Family, Friends and Guests...

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES:

**Now we come to that part of the program you have eagerly
awaited – the Conferral of Degrees.**

Chancellor, on behalf of the graduate faculty, it is my honor to present to you the candidates for graduate degrees:

Doctoral degree candidates have completed the requirements for the following degrees:

- **Doctor of Philosophy**
- **Doctor of Education**

Candidates for the degree Educational Specialist

Master's degree candidates have completed the requirements in their respective fields of study for the following degrees:

- **Master of Arts**
- **Master of Arts for Teachers of Mathematics**
- **Master of Science**
- **Master of Accounting**
- **Master of Business Administration**
- **Master of Business Administration: Executive MBA**

- **Master of Architectural Engineering**
- **Master of Music**
- **Master of Public Administration**
- **Master of Social Work**

The graduate faculty takes pride in presenting these candidates to you for the conferral of the appropriate degree.