



Dear Graduates of the College of Information Science and Technology,

Congratulations on your special day!

Today may look a little different than you had planned but remember you are surrounded by the Maverick community that helped you along this exciting and challenging path.

Today is just what everyone has told you: the start of a new chapter in your lives.

Today is a culmination of all the hard work you've put in throughout your years at UNO.

Today is a celebration.

And while we may not be physically together, we're together in spirit.

Equipped with the education you've received at our college, let the possibilities of your future define this moment. As we look forward, one thing is abundantly clear: we need graduates like you - now more than ever - to advance science and bring new ideas to current technologies, to help our communities stay connected, and to move our society forward.

You, class of 2020, are that future.

You are currently launching careers that weren't even possible ten years ago. You will be driving innovation forward in ways we can only dream about, even today.

This past year saw so many important moments that you helped shape.

Perhaps you helped with one of our many workshops, youth camps, and exciting IT initiatives.

Perhaps you helped with our student group NULLify's High School Capture the Flag competition – our largest Capture the Flag yet.

Perhaps you represented the college in one of the regional, national and international events – such as the 2019 Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing. The celebration event that drew over 20,000 participants to celebrate diversity in our disciplines.



You saw the start of our newest degree: the Masters of Science in IT Innovation or the start of our newest joint degree: the Masters in Data Science in collaboration with COB and CAS.

You've worked on exciting outreach activities and community engagement events that are helping us connect with our community partners.

You've worked on countless projects and research opportunities that are helping change the fabric of our world.

Perhaps You're one of our many students that won awards throughout this school year. Among our 2020 graduating class the college has its first recipient of the prestigious Goldwater scholarship award. Also, the college outstanding student for this year has received the Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence, the top academic award for undergraduate students on our campus.

We are all very proud of your accomplishments.

I can't miss this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to our outstanding faculty and staff. As always, they have done everything they can to support you and help you reach this special moment.

Our faculty and staff have also received many awards this year. Too many to list. But their most remarkable achievement has been their resilience in maintaining their high-performance level under such challenging circumstances!

Witnessing how much they care about you and your success has been inspirational.

I also want to congratulate your families and friends who played, I am sure, major roles in making this day possible.

On your graduation day, on behalf of the entire IST family, we are celebrating with you and wishing you the best in your exciting next step. Congratulations!