



# NORWICH UNIVERSITY™

*Expect Challenge. Achieve Distinction.*

Dear Class of 2020,

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your graduation and on all of your many outstanding achievements here at Norwich University. As your diploma testifies, you have worked diligently to reach this important milestone in life, and the rewards that lie ahead of you as a result of that hard work are great.

I wish to acknowledge that the conclusion of your Norwich career amid the COVID-19 pandemic is not what anyone could have expected. And it has been a disappointment, for us all, to be as yet unable to celebrate you in person with our traditional Commencement ceremony. Know, however, that this in no way detracts from the immeasurable value you add to Norwich, nor does it lessen our pride in counting you among our distinguished and inspiring alumni.

To echo the words of President Schneider, each of you embrace our guiding values and exemplify dedication and selfless service – in your perseverance to complete your academic studies remotely; to support your families, friends, and communities through these challenging times; and in your resilience to rise above adversity and forge ahead in your chosen path.

The skills you have developed and honed here at Norwich – such as critical and interdisciplinary thinking, technical literacy, cultural agility, and leadership – will serve you well as you continue your good work to be of service to others, our nation, and our world. Your Norwich education, both in and out of the classroom, has prepared you well to be thoughtful and self-disciplined, people of integrity and honor.

Now more than ever, the world needs leaders of distinction who are invested in each other to better serve their communities. When you reflect on your time here at Norwich, I hope you will feel refreshed by your memories of friends, faculty, and staff. I hope you will be enlivened and inspired by the knowledge that our community is made stronger by your efforts. Each of you shows the very best of what Norwich can do.

Please know how proud I am of you. I have full confidence in your ability to excel in your life-long journey of learning, and I am wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

Norwich Forever!

Sandra G. Affenito, Ph.D.  
Provost and Dean of the Faculty

**OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE FACULTY**

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