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**Dear Graduates,**

Today is a special day. Your years of reading, writing, discussing, researching, exploring, creating, competing, leading, innovating, and understanding have led you to this moment.

In your time at Colorado College, you delved into late-night debates. You kept going through frustrations and challenges. You were swept up in bursts of artistic exuberance and athletic milestones. You brought fresh perspectives to your classes. You were humbled by exploring the world and understanding the experiences of others. You learned who you are and what you can do.

It all led to today, the day we all – faculty, staff, fellow students, families, friends, and loved ones – celebrate your achievement. While this year, because of the pandemic, we cannot gather on Tava Quad with the faculty, trustees, and college leadership cheering you as you march in your caps and gowns, our pride and excitement for you are undiminished.

You are our next leaders, our brightest minds, the ones who will change our world for the better. I hope you can come back next year to celebrate in person, on the quad, with Pikes Peak in the background, in those caps and gowns, and with all of your classmates and family sharing the joy. For now, enjoy having reached this pinnacle. Thank those who helped you get here – your families, professors, friends, staff, mentors – and keep those bonds tight.

Thank you for all you have added to CC in your time here. You are why CC exists, and why it is a rare and special place. You have made a mark in the classroom, the community, on this campus, and in our hearts. Now you will do the same in the world.

Congratulations!

Jill Tiefenthaler  
President