

**From:** [Office of the Chancellor](#)  
**Subject:** A Message From the Chancellor: Congratulations, Graduates!  
**Date:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 10:11:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Campus Community,

This week, we honor the USC Upstate Class of 2020! I invite you all to join me in congratulating our graduates. While we would have loved to have gathered together on the Quad for Commencement, we are grateful that USC System President Bob Caslen could join us for USC Upstate's first-ever Virtual Commencement and to confer the 835 degrees this class has worked so hard to earn.

Recorded in the SCETV studio, we have produced a virtual ceremony with all the pomp and circumstance our graduates deserve. [The ceremony may be viewed online](#) beginning at 2:00 p.m. this Saturday, August 1, and will be available for the next several months.

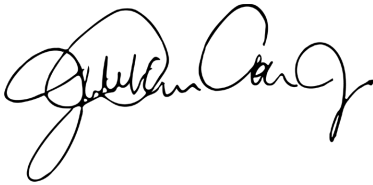
While this is undoubtedly one of the most memorable years on record, the COVID-19 pandemic takes nothing away from the accomplishments of our students. In my Commencement remarks this year, I point to the collective characteristics that make the Class of 2020 particularly strong.

The majority of our graduates are part of Generation Z. As such, they are well equipped to handle these challenging times, to learn from the successes—and the mistakes—of those who have come before them. They know technology well. They are skilled multitaskers. They're an entrepreneurial group, and they value individuality. They are one of the most global generations in American history, and that will serve us all well.

We could not be prouder of our graduates. The future is bright.

Again, we extend to the Class of 2020 and their families our heartfelt congratulations!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Derham Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." being particularly prominent.

J. Derham Cole  
Interim Chancellor

**University of South Carolina Upstate**  
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***Up is where we live.***