Commencement Message 2020
Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Greetings graduates of the School of Graduate Studies and Research! It gives me and the School’s staff great pleasure to congratulate you on your completion of a Master’s or Educational Specialist degree here at Central Washington University. This signals a major achievement, resulting from the effort, dedication, and sacrifice on the part of yourselves, your family, your friends and CWU’s graduate faculty, especially in these times of heightened social and academic turmoil. I greatly admire your fortitude and determination to succeed at such a high level of educational accomplishment in times such as these. I regret not being able to congratulate each of you individually, in-person, and publicly as part of our growing CWU graduate student alumni community, particularly as I know you have had to overcome great personal and academic challenges in order to accomplish this goal.
I also well-know how disappointing it is to you and your families that we cannot gather together in a full commencement ceremony. Graduates know this: you have succeeded, and you should be very, very proud of yourselves! Your academic achievement is truly extraordinary, especially when you consider that only approximately nine percent of the American population has a Master's or Educational Specialist degree. I truly hope that the graduate education you received at Central was not only personally edifying and career enhancing but also provided you with the knowledge and tools to be used for the greater good of your immediate community and the nation at large. A more educated society, as we all know, can only be a more respectful and, therefore, a more civil society. Please do your part toward this end.

Also remember that, unlike the undergraduate experience, the very nature of graduate studies involves very close collaboration between students and their faculty mentors. I hereby acknowledge the student
support and overall dedication of our graduate faculty and staff here at CWU who have helped bring all of you to this monumental moment. I hope you will not forget this dedication as you move forward with your lives and will remember to let your faculty mentors, and us, know from time to time how you are succeeding in each new stage of your life. We all really do care, trust me.

Finally, on behalf of CWU, you are now a part of the Wildcat nation of over 100,000 total alumni of which over 10,000 are graduate alumni like you. I hope that you will get and will stay connected with these alumni via CWU’s alumni association because this is a support network that is very concerned with your continuing success as you move forward with your life.

Please keep in touch and, again, congratulations to every one of you!

Kevin Archer, Ph.D.
Dean