

# FIRSTGEN GRADUATE 2020

UNIVERSITY  
OF  
CALIFORNIA

Dear First-Generation Graduate,

As a first-generation college student, you know how to persist through uncharted territory and overcome unforeseen challenges. The qualities that led you to UC San Diego are the same qualities that will help you succeed during this time of unprecedented change. Qualities such as resilience, adaptability, compassion and determination serve to help us focus on the present as well as prepare for the future.

We recognize that for many first-generation college students, commencement is the culmination of decades of hard work. It is a crucial ceremony that recognizes and celebrates intellectual and academic achievement and presents graduates with a formal opportunity to show gratitude for the support they have received from family, loved ones and their communities.

It was our sincere hope to be able to continue our most celebrated tradition in person at the end of the academic year, but unfortunately, that is not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's commencement requires an innovative solution that balances recognition of accomplishment with concerns for public health and safety.

Spring 2020 graduates of UC San Diego's undergraduate and graduate programs will be recognized with [virtual ceremonies](#). Our traditional in-person commencement ceremonies will be held at later, yet-to-be-determined dates.

Commencement is an important moment to take pride in and share your tremendous accomplishment. We want to ensure that you have the opportunity to mark the occasion and celebrate your milestone accordingly.

To complement your virtual commencement experience, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will feature graduating first-generation Tritons on the [Triton Firsts website](#). This website will spotlight your accomplishments, give you space to share your experience as a first-generation student, and provide a unique opportunity to express gratitude to those who supported you along the way.

To participate in this initiative, please visit [bit.ly/firstgengrads2020](http://bit.ly/firstgengrads2020) and share your story. For questions, email [firstgentritons@ucsd.edu](mailto:firstgentritons@ucsd.edu).

Congratulations on your accomplishments,

**Pradeep K. Khosla**  
Chancellor

**John Moore**  
Dean of Undergraduate Education

**Elizabeth Simmons**  
Executive Vice Chancellor

**Becky Pettit**  
Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

**James Antony**  
Dean, The Graduate Division

**Alysson Satterlund**  
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Dear Marshall College First Gen Grad,

Congratulations and welcome to the club! As a fellow first generation college graduate, I know how hard you have worked and what a sense of accomplishment you are experiencing right now. Graduating from UC San Diego is a huge accomplishment for anyone, but it is extra special for you. Although you face some challenges as a first gen student, your success shows that you bring an exceptional level of resilience and strength that will continue to benefit you as you move on to your next pursuits. You should be so proud of yourself, and I know your families and friends are proud as well! Best of luck in all your future endeavors, and please stay in touch with your TMC Family!

Best of luck,

Dr. Leslie Carver  
Provost, Marshall College  
Professor, Psychology and Human Developmental Sciences  
UC San Diego  
Email: [tmcprovost@ucsd.edu](mailto:tmcprovost@ucsd.edu)



Dear Revelle College First-Gen Triton Grads

It is my greatest pleasure to congratulate you on your accomplishments at UC San Diego. I am sure each one of you have a special and interesting account of how you did it - most important of all, you've completed your baccalaureate study at UC San Diego, and fulfilled the dreams of those who cherish you.

2020 is a very special year, not only will we be celebrating the founding of the university 60 years ago, we are also encountering one of the worst pandemics in modern era. The future is full of uncertainties at this very moment. However, as Revellians, you are superbly prepared to tackle the unknowns with resilience and confidence. As Tritons, you will be widely regarded for solving important problems with determination.

As you proudly march across (via Roger's Point of View) the Revelle Plaza and wave goodbye to classmates, friends, teachers, and staff at the College, I warmly wish you the best in your next endeavor. *Go Tritons! Go Revellians!*

Sincerely,

Paul Yu, Provost  
Revelle College, UC San Diego

Dear Revelle College First-Gen Triton Grads,

You made it. CONGRATULATIONS! You have accomplished something truly extraordinary.

As a fellow member of the first generation college graduate club, I wanted to offer my congratulations to you and acknowledge your success. No doubt there were tears, frustrations, or disappointments along the way. Perhaps changes in family expectations and relationships. But I'm confident there were many, many accomplishments too. Proud moments, obstacles overcome, and new relationships with peers and mentors.

As you move on to the next step – whether it's grad school, employment, a gap year, or something else entirely – I wanted to offer three things I've learned from the professional world. After all, your first-gen identity does not end here, and I hope you take your pride in all you've accomplished at UC San Diego into the next phase.

Make connections. Networking can be awkward, but it can also be incredibly fruitful. Don't be afraid to ask someone to get coffee and learn more about their job or their industry. Use alumni connections. They are incredibly powerful. Force yourself into networking situations and I promise it gets easier in time.

Navigating personal relationships might be difficult. As you wrap up this chapter of your life, you may find that your relationships with family and friends have changed while you've been at college. My advice is to prioritize the relationships that are most important to you, and realize it's normal for things to change.

Don't downplay your success. Only 1/3 of Americans have a bachelor's degree. Only about 7% of people in the world do. Use your story of what you have overcome when you seek opportunities in the future. Talk about the classes you have taken, the outside responsibilities you balanced, and the systems you navigated to meet this goal. Be prepared to tell your story. It's a great one.

As you move into the next phase, I wish you the best of luck. If there is anything I can do to assist you in the future as you navigate your next opportunities, please do not hesitate to reach out at [kmichel@ucsd.edu](mailto:kmichel@ucsd.edu). Truly.

Katie Michel  
Dean of Advising, Revelle College



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May 19, 2020

Dear Sixth College First-Gen Grad,

Congratulations on your admission from Sixth College, UC San Diego and on the tremendous achievement this indicates. This is a very special day for you and for so many of us who are in your community of support. We are so proud of you and happy for you. This is the culmination of years of hard work, beginning well before you came to us at UC San Diego, and also the beginning of new paths that you will take and make.

You are the first in your family, and possibly in your community to have embarked on this venture and we share your joy in this happy next step. You are a trailblazer for your community and bring new hopes and horizons to those that follow in your footsteps and blaze paths of their own. We are pleased to welcome you to Sixth and to be a part of your journey. We hope to share with you the Sixth spirit of enterprise, of our motto of Innovative, Interconnected, and Aware. Thanks to all of you, these are not mere words at Sixth, but part of the foundation of values we share as a community: We strive to be **interconnected** – with people from all walks of life, experiences, and skills; to be **aware** – of needs as well as of opportunities and of what each of us brings to the common table; and to be **innovative** – in our approach to invention and problem solving. Our faculty and staff are excited to have you join us and look forward to sharing opportunities and resources and to support and collaborate with you.

Congratulations and the very best to you from all of us at Sixth.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lakshmi N. Chilukuri".

Dr. Lakshmi Chilukuri  
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