

May 28, 2021

Congratulations on your graduation! It is my honor to recognize this achievement with your loved ones and your University of Texas Rio Grande Valley family. This milestone represents your hard work, persistence, and dedication to your studies. You should be proud of all that you have accomplished, especially during unprecedented times.

While the pandemic brought significant challenge to millions of Americans across our Nation, students like you overcame those obstacles, and you proudly have the diplomas to show for it. I am confident that receiving your diploma is one of many great things in store for you. Now more than ever, this country needs your creativity and innovation. It is our responsibility to build back our Nation better and to be the country we know we can be—just, equitable, innovative, and prosperous for all Americans.

As you reflect on this achievement, remember what does not come from this diploma—the heart to know what is meaningful and what is fleeting and the head to know the difference between knowledge and judgment. Embrace this next chapter. I encourage you to find opportunities to serve your community and your country and to support others who are also part of the foster care family.

I have never been more optimistic about America than I am today, and that is because of individuals like you. Your futures are bright and limitless. Congratulations again.

