



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UDC CONFERS DEGREES IN A VIRTUAL SALUTE TO GRADUATES**

**WASHINGTON, DC**— To commemorate what would have been graduation this weekend, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) presented a virtual tribute to salute members of the graduating Class of 2020. This morning’s website presentation went live at 10 a.m., which is the same time commencement would have begun at the Washington Convention Center, which is postponed until December due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During today’s 30 minute “Firebirds Forever” video salute, President Ronald Mason conferred degrees on 794 graduates who have completed requirements across UDC’s six schools and colleges. Sixteen of those graduates completed their degrees with a perfect cumulative average of 4.0.

The video included messages from the District’s Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes-Norton, UDC’s board chair Christopher Bell and each of the University’s academic deans. In his brief presentation, President Mason congratulated students graduates on their accomplishments and challenged the graduating class to take-on a changing world.

“This pandemic is changing the world in ways that no one could’ve imagined,” said Mason. “You are the first class of UDC graduates facing the task to build this new world. Be fortified, be strong and know that you are prepared for the challenges before you.”

Chief Academic Officer Lawrence T. Potter, Jr. explained that creating the video was extremely important for the university to celebrate the Class of 2020 for their accomplishments under these unprecedented circumstances.

“While no one could have anticipated a virtual celebration, I want our graduates and the faculty to know we are excited to recognize and celebrate their mutual accomplishments,” said Potter. “This class has shown incredible resiliency and I couldn’t be prouder. It is disappointing to be unable to express that in person, but we found a way to properly recognize and celebrate the fantastic achievements of the Class of 2020. This is a momentous occasion!”

To view the “Firebirds Forever” video salute, visit  
UDC Website, <https://www.udc.edu/commencement/>  
Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/UofDC>,  
UDC YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/user/UniversityofDC>

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