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Member of Assembly 64th District

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New York School of Career and Applied Studies
A Division of Touro College
320 West 31st Street
New York, NY 10001

June 17, 2020

Graduates of Touro NYSCAS:

I would like to congratulate you all today on this tremendous achievement and milestone in your lives. You have all overcome personal challenges and difficulties and are celebrating today under unprecedented circumstances in the face of a global epidemic. The range of emotions you all must be feeling on this day is indescribable. Happiness for your accomplishment. Sadness that you cannot celebrate with a traditional graduation ceremony surrounded by your peers. Uncertainty about the future and the next step in your life.

Whatever emotions you feel on this day, and days to come, nothing can ever take away the accomplishments you have all earned through hard work, discipline, and integrity. I remember how proud I was on my graduation day as the first in my family to graduate from college. Enjoy this day and appreciate the utmost pride and sense of accomplishment you have earned.

As we begin the rebuilding process you all will play an integral part of our success moving forward. Whatever field you have chosen to pursue will need leaders and innovators. The unique challenge of graduating college during the COVID-19 pandemic will forever serve as a testament to your strength, willpower, and tenacity. We need these talents as we begin to rebuild our lives, communities, and country. Wherever your path leads you, remember this moment and the adversity you've overcome. You are the ones who will determine the future of this state and nation and the generations that follow you are counting on you to leave them a nation that is stronger and greater than it is today.

Congratulations Touro NYSCAS Class of 2020. I can't wait to see the change and light you bring into this world moving forward.

All the best,

Nicole Malliotakis
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