

Now I would like to offer my remarks to the Class of 2018.

Earlier this month, CSU Chancellor Tim White, the head of the 23-campus CSU system, wrote a letter to your class.

In that letter, Chancellor White underscored the importance of making time to truly celebrate this milestone.

“We are here to celebrate you,” he wrote, “...your determination, passion, drive and vision for the future — both your own future, and the one you will create for the world.”

End quote.

And here I’m tempted to just say, “what he said,” and call it a day.

But Chancellor White hit the right keyword: Celebrate.

And that is what we are here to do.

We are here to celebrate all that you have accomplished on the pathway to graduation. It can be d we am

Now, before we turn to the main event ... crossing the stage when your name is called ... I'd like to say a few words about the degree you're about to receive.

A college degree; a graduate degree — these are indicators of incredible achievement.

A San José State degree will do many things for you in the years ahead.

A San José State degree documents your ability to set a course, and to follow it through to completion.

Trust me, this is no small achievement.

With this degree you leave the overpopulated world of “could have, should have, would have”...

... And you enter the world of: “I DID IT.”

Let me add here that one out of four San José State students, on average, are the first in their families to attend college.

For those of you here today who belong to that cohort, let me say that what you have achieved also sends a powerful message to your entire family. To your brothers and sisters ... to your children ... to your cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Your degree says, “I did it — and

[FOR COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES]

I can tell by the wide range of activities conducted by the members of our College of Social Sciences ...

... whether leading voter registration drives in our local neighborhoods ...

... or pursuing research on sustainable agriculture ...

... or presenting papers at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies annual conference ...

... I can tell that you have already started to make your way into our fast-changing world.

These experiences broadened your education. They also, in many cases, have benefited communities beyond our campus borders.

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