

Michael J. Grant Campus Office of the Executive Dean

May 2021

Dear Graduate,

Congratulations! Your time here at Suffolk County Community College has been nothing short of challenging, yet you have shown an outstanding level of tenacity, resilience, and strength as you persevered to meet your academic goals. Your journey began during an extraordinary time in history. You have successfully completed step one. Whether that step is toward the next educational experience and degree, or toward your entry into the workplace, I can confidently say that you will be successful. Remember that our experiences in many cases define how we see the world. These past few semesters have taught us many lessons inside and outside of the classroom. What I hope you remember and take away from them is the kindness you have shown to yourself and others, the compassion with which you view the turmoil in the world around us, and the grit by which you push through and lift yourself and others up.

Physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer (1904 - 1967) said, "This world of ours is a new world, in which the unit of knowledge, the nature of human communities, the order of society, the order of idea, the very notions of society and culture have changed, and will not return to what they have been in the past. What is new is new, not because it has never been there before, but because it has changed in quality." These words are timeless.

As you move on from SUNY Suffolk, remember that there are times when you will be challenged, times when you will be stretching yourself beyond what makes you comfortable, times of change. Embrace the challenges, embrace the discomfort, embrace the change. It is during these moments when we grow as individuals and we have an opportunity to partake in and influence the positive growth of our society.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes for your future endeavors.

Donna L. Ciampa, Ed. D.

Dr. D. L. Ciampa Campus CEO/Executive Dean, Interim Michael J. Grant Campus Suffolk County Community College

Suffolk County Community College promotes intellectual discovery, physical development, social and ethical awareness, and economic opportunities for all through education that transforms lives, builds communities and improves society.

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