

2020 WSU System-Wide Virtual Celebration

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: Very elevator-like. Thank you.

KIRK SCHULZ: Good morning, Cougs. And welcome to our virtual commencement celebration today. I don't care where you are. Whether you're in the state of Washington, anywhere around the world, today is a great day to celebrate your accomplishments.

Let me first say welcome and congratulations to our new graduates, the first class of 2020. How about a nice rousing "Go, Cougs"?

Normally, when we're in Beasley Coliseum, at the end of a lot of these kind of comments, we would do a "1, 2, 3. Go, Cougs." And there's no reason we can't do that from wherever you are. So right now, let's just do a quick practice. 1, 2, 3. Go, Cougs.

Make sure today, no matter where you are, with family, with friends, that you have a great time and celebrate all your accomplishments. You've persevered in the face of one of the most challenging times in modern history to reach this milestone moment in your life.

Good morning to everyone else, colleagues and friends, alumni, family members, and loved ones. Without your support of these graduates, this moment would not be possible.

Graduates, as we gather today for this celebration, I'm inspired by your accomplishments and ambitions. You've accomplished much in nearly every academic field imaginable. You have big dreams for the future. We enthusiastically welcome you to the ranks of WSU alumni, and we send you into a world that greatly needs your minds and your hearts.

Recent events have reminded us there is so much happening in the world that needs fixing-- disease, extreme poverty, religious strife sexual discrimination, unimaginable violence. The list is long. But I'm here today to tell you there are many reasons for hope.

It's that hopefulness, better known as "Cougar spirit," that defines this university and binds us together. For me, Cougar spirit is embodied by an insatiable curiosity about the world, combined with a never-say-die attitude and willingness to work hard to succeed, no matter the obstacles.

It's a spirit that you, the class of 2020, have demonstrated day in and day out on your path to this moment. It's a spirit I have observed every day for the past four years I have served as your president. It's a spirit of hopefulness that manifests itself in the good work being done by our faculty, students, and staff, by our alumni, and by our friends.

The examples of compassion, dedication, selflessness, patience, and kindness I've witnessed have inspired and humbled me. Without a doubt, the world needs your Cougar spirit more than ever. And your willingness to confidently step up and tackle our shared challenges fills me with hope, hope for today and hope for our future.

In my role, I meet many of you. And you are absolutely incredible and amazing people. Interacting with you is one of the greatest joys of serving as a university president. Noel and I have had many of you to our house for dinner and receptions. We've taught you in classes. We've cheered for you on stages and in athletic competitions.

Getting to know you gives me much optimism about the future. Although there isn't time today to single out all of our remarkable students, please indulge me as I share a few examples of the class of 2020 who represent the talent and resolve of all of our new graduates across the WSU system.

Elyse Bennett served as a certified nursing assistant and medication aide, volunteered with the Special Olympics-- was named to the PAC-12 Academic Honor Roll while helping the Cougar women's soccer team to a Final Four appearance in the College Cup. Elyse majored in biology, with a pre-physician assistant focus.

Megan Lee was Air Force ROTC Cadet of the Year, a member of the WSU women's rowing team, a wildland firefighter, volunteered with the Humane Society, and job-shadowed at Pullman Regional Hospital. A genetics and cell biology major, Megan will attend the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine in the fall.

Zachary Harper-- President, Vice President, and Director of Finance with the Associated Students of WSU Tri-Cities. Zachary received numerous awards for campus involvement, including the Rising Star Award, the President's Award for Leadership, and the President's Civic Leadership Award. He majored in business and plans to work in the fashion industry.

Ana Karen Betancourt Macias-- a sociology major, WSU Vancouver. Ana founded and directed the Seeds for Liberation mentorship program and was a lead organizer for the Clark County Latino Leadership Youth Conference. She also served as Vice President of the Youth for Southwest Washington League of United Latin-American Citizens Council. A single mom, Ana plans to apply to Harvard for graduate school.

Kristian Gubsch, WSU's first-ever recipient of a prestigious Marshall Scholarship-- an American Chemical Society delegate to the UN Climate Change Conference. Kristian also served as President of WSU Harold Frank Engineering Entrepreneurship Institute and programmed and built air quality units for the WSU Laboratory for Atmospheric Research. Next stop-- the master's program at the University of Sheffield to study energy and environmental engineering.

For each graduate I've just highlighted, there are thousands of other members of the Cougar family, ranging from first-year students to lifelong alumni, are improving the world in ways

large and small. That mindset, our shared Cougar spirit, is the core of what makes this institution as fantastic and life-changing as it is.

Washington State University is about its people, people who bring their diverse backgrounds and life experiences to unite behind causes greater than themselves. Am I an optimist? Yes, there's no doubt about it. But I see the world the way I do because I know how hard this community and all of you, our 2020 graduates, work to succeed every day.

Your potential, our potential, is simply unlimited. As we celebrate today, let us look to each other for continued inspiration in the years ahead. May WSU and the Cougar family continue to be your fountain of hope as we face the future.

Again, congratulations, graduates. And at home, on the count of three, a "1, 2, 3, Go, Cougs."

Now, I turn the program over to Bryan Slinker, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President of Washington State. Thank you.

BRYAN SLINKER: Hello, graduates. It's an honor to join you for this historic celebration of your accomplishments at WSU and to welcome you as fellow alumni of this great university. We plan on celebrating with you again later this year with a formal commencement ceremony. At that time, we look forward to the regalia, the tassels, the graduation march, and the celebrations with friends and family.

Your final semester at WSU will be remembered as an extremely challenging, stressful, and trying time. It's my final semester at WSU, as well. I first set foot in Pullman as a veterinary student in 1976. And now, after nearly the last 30 years on faculty, it has been an honor to serve as interim provost for the past eight months.

Like you, I never imagined my final months at WSU would include seemingly endless Zoom meetings and wearing face masks to the grocery store. But we will also remember the resilience and dedication shown by Cougars time and time again. I'm so proud of all of you.

We remain a tight-knit Cougar community, even while a pandemic forces us to be spread around the world, the state, and country. As you move into the next stage of your lives, please maintain your Cougar spirit. Spread it around at work, in grad school, and in your communities.

Come back to campus. Visit your professors, and cheer on your Cougs. And take heart in knowing that as a WSU alumnus, you remain a member of an incredible network of people. I hope you will find, as I have, that Cougs helping Cougs does not just apply during your time as a student, but throughout your life.

And it will follow you in all your travels. Wear the crimson and gray proudly wherever you go, because whether it is in Seattle or on the Serengeti, doing so will usually elicit a "Go, Cougs" from someone you meet.

To welcome this first and very unique graduating class of 2020, I am pleased to introduce the student presidents-- Jennifer Johnson, GPSA Pullman, Lynn Aylesworth, ASWSU Everett, Morgan Atwood, ASWSU Global, Quinton Berkompas, ASWSU Pullman, Arliegh Cayanan, ASWSU Spokane, Zachary Harper, ASWSU Tri-Cities, Davina Cepeda, ASWSU Vancouver, and Jane Yung, President of the Washington State University Alumni Association. Let us see what they have to say, and go, Cougs.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JENNIFER JOHNSON: My name is Jennifer Johnson, and I am the president of the Graduate and Professional Student Association at WSU.

LYNN AYLESWORTH: Hi, everyone. My name is Lynn Ayleswoth. I am the ASWSU Everett president.

ZACHARY HARPER: Hi. My name is Zach Harper. I'm the student body president at WSU Tri-Cities.

MORGAN ATWOOD: My name is Morgan Atwood, and I am the student body president of WSU Global

DAVINA CEPEDA: Hi. My name is Davina Cepeda, and I am the ASWSU president from WSU Vancouver.

QUINTON BERKOMPAS: Hey, Cougs. Congratulations. We made it, and I'm excited to share this experience with you here today.

JANE YUNG: Congratulations, class of 2020. I'm Jane Yung. I'm president of the WSU Alumni Association.

LYNN AYLESWORTH: Actually, one time at Everett, it started flooding in the school. And everyone came together to clean it up. It was cool to see all the students come from different majors and clean up the campus.

ZACHARY HARPER: It was parking out by the CIC Building and walking along the river to my office. It was great to just start my day in such a peaceful area. And I got to see the wildlife and say hi to bikers and community members as they walked by. And so it was a really great experience, just to start my day off like that in the summer and the fall months.

MORGAN ATWOOD: Getting to know all of the other Global campus students and learning how similar we really are. Even though we have different majors, different backgrounds, we're all still Cougs.

QUINTON BERKOMPAS: We've been through a lot of special experiences together, from the winter that never ended back in 2017 to storming the field at Martin Stadium-- T-Pain, Khalid, and Billie Eilish.

JENNIFER JOHNSON: I first wanted to say that on behalf of the GPSA, congratulations on reaching this amazing milestone. It is a remarkable accomplishment. All the long days and seemingly endless nights have culminated in this moment, where you can look back and celebrate every step of your journey.

DAVINA CEPEDA: Yes. First of all, congratulations on completing another milestone in your life. I know we all come from different walks of life. But today, we are celebrating you and your accomplishments at WSU.

MORGAN ATWOOD: Congratulations, class of 2020. You have accomplished so much. So please be proud of yourself. And remember, you will all go on to accomplish so many great things. But remember that you always have a home at WSU. And you will always be a Coug.

QUINTON BERKOMPAS: We've been through a lot of special experiences, and I've loved my time here at WSU. And I just want to say thank you for being a part of it and making WSU exactly what it is.

ZACHARY HARPER: What did you learn outside of the classroom? So yes, we're getting our degrees. We're graduating. We have that piece of paper. But what other skills did you learn outside of the classroom? I hope that those skills that you learned, you get to transition into your new job or your schooling after this.

JANE YUNG: I'm thrilled to welcome you as an alum to the Alumni Association. It's the finest group of Cougs around. And you are now a member.

Like you, there have been lots of Cougs before you who have gone through big changes during their time, such as when we suspended Cougar football during World War II and, on a lighthearted note, when the school colors changed over a century ago from pink and blue to crimson and gray. That part was a good change.

There are Cougs all over the world who are rooting hard for your success. Thank you for your resiliency. Thank you for your adaptability. Those things are going to serve you well in life.

ALL: Go, Cougs.

KIRK SCHULZ: Well, if that doesn't deserve a "go, Cougs" at home, I don't know what does. So go, Cougs.

This is a joyous occasion. It's a great time to be a Coug. I join the Coug Nation in congratulating today's graduates. We are proud of each and every one of you.

No one is prouder of our students than the university leaders. It's a privilege to invite our campus chancellors to join in our celebration today.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PAUL PITRE: Congratulations, Cougs. I am Paul Pitre, chancellor of Washington State University, Everett. And on behalf of the faculty and staff at the Everett campus, I want to commend you on the passion, the focus, and the fortitude it took you to reach this day. We saw it in you when you arrived on campus, we see it in you now, and we salute you for it. We commend you on your amazing success.

You, the class of 2020, remind us that when things get tough, as they did this past spring, Cougs dig in. They persevere. Go forth into the future, knowing you already possess what it takes to succeed.

Enjoy this victory lap. Well done, class of 2020. And go, Cougs.

DAVE CILLAY: Good morning. I'm Dave Cillay, chancellor of the WSU Global campus. On behalf of the faculty and staff at WSU Global, I want to congratulate you on an amazing accomplishment. I don't know if this has sunk in yet, but you're a college graduate.

And more importantly, you're a graduate of WSU. That makes you part of a unique family of passionate, engaged, and sometimes rowdy alumni. You're a Cougar. Let me be the first to welcome you to the family. Go, Cougs.

Hi. I'm Daryll DeWald, vice president and chancellor of WSU Health Sciences. Congratulations on earning your degree, especially in these challenging times. I would encourage you to maintain your curiosity and be a lifetime learner.

I request that you make a habit out of thanking the people who have invested in you, because they believe in you and they know what you can do. Finally, as a member of the Cougar Nation, you are a Cougar for life. So remember, go, Cougs.

SANDRA HAYNES: Good morning. I'm Sandra Haynes, chancellor at Washington State University, Tri-Cities, here on the banks of the beautiful Columbia River. I want to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Washington State University graduates everywhere.

I'm so pleased to be here today to help you celebrate, albeit in an unconventional manner. But that's worthy of celebration, too. You finished your degree during unprecedented times and through unpredictable changes to everyday life. Your perseverance and your resilience carried you through.

Take that tenacity with you, and you will go far. Congratulations again to each of you, and go, Cougs.

MEL NETZHAMMER: Good morning. I'm Mel Netzhammer, chancellor of Washington State University, Vancouver. On behalf of the faculty and staff of WSU Vancouver, I want to congratulate all of you across our six campuses who are graduating today.

No one could have predicted the changes that we faced overnight for the last weeks of our semester. But you handled it with grace, understanding, and commitment. Even more, you supported each other through this work. And I am truly grateful, truly proud at the way that our Cougs handled this.

Congratulations. Go, Van Cougs, and go, Cougs.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRYAN SLINKER: Today, we celebrate all students across the WSU system. We have a total of 4,429 undergraduates, 430 professional degrees, 401 masters, eight professional science masters, and 230 doctoral graduates, representing 178 different degree fields. 14 of these graduates were commissioned as officers in the United States Armed Forces.

The candidates for advanced degrees will be presented by Lisa Gloss, Dean of the Graduate School.

LISA GLOSS: President Schulz, from the graduate school, it is my great pleasure to present to you the 16 professional science masters, 401 masters, three Doctorate of Education, 38 Doctor of Nursing Practices, and 189 Doctor of Philosophy degree candidates.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JOSH FREIMARK: My favorite part about grad school would be how well it's prepared me to enter the job market. And then my favorite thing about WSU as a whole would be Cougar Football Saturday. Nothing beats it. Go, Cougs.

BRYAN SLINKER: The College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences will be presented by Dean André-Denis Wright.

ANDRE-DENIS GIRARD WRIGHT: President Schulz, I take great pleasure in presenting to you 427 baccalaureate degree candidates from the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NOEL PEREZ: Hi. My name's Noel Perez, and I'm with the class of 2020. And when I think about Wazzu, I'm going to forever think about my family and, of course, all the classmates. I wish you all luck, and I look forward to your progress and future.

BRYAN SLINKER: The College of Arts and Sciences will be presented by Dean Matthew Jockers.

MATTHEW JOCKERS: President Schulz, I take incredible pleasure in presenting to you 1,535 baccalaureate degree candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRYAN STEBBINS: As a graduate student at WSUV, I've really enjoyed the student experience with the College of Arts and Sciences. The faculty have been wonderful, same with my classroom colleagues, and they've all helped me acquire the skills and knowledge I need to continue to advance within my current career. To the class of 2020, congratulations. We did it.

SHERIDAN INGALLS: My name is Sheridan Ingalls. I am a Global campus student. My favorite thing about Global campus is the ability to learn at my own pace, work a full-time job, as well as staying connected to the WSU Cougar community.

BRYAN SLINKER: The Carson College of Business will be presented by Dean Chip Hunter.

CHIP HUNTER: President Schulz, I take pleasure in presenting to you 149 Master of Business Administration professional degree candidates and 786 baccalaureate degree candidates from the Carson College of Business.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

RICHARD AQUINO: Hey, Cougs. My favorite memory from WSU is when my grandparents came all the way from Oaxaca, Mexico to visit during a football game. It meant a lot to me because I'm a first-gen student. So for them to come over here and witness the greatness that we have in the promised land felt good. Go, Cougs.

BRYAN SLINKER: The Edward R. Murrow College of Communications will be presented by Dean Bruce Pinkleton.

BRUCE PINKLETON: President Schulz, I take great pleasure in presenting to you 268 baccalaureate degree candidates from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

RACHEL LUTOVSKY: Hi. My name is Rachel Lutovsky, and I'm graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Strategic Communication. My favorite thing about the Murrow College are the creative and driven people within it.

BRYAN SLINKER: The College of Education, presented by Dean Michael Trevisan.

MICHAEL TREVISAN: President Schulz, I take pleasure in presenting to you 271 baccalaureate degree candidates from the College of Education.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JESICA GARCIA: With WSU Tri-Cities and the College of Education, I gained all the skills and the knowledge necessary to become a great teacher. However, the greatest lesson I learned was that teaching is only effective when you get to know your students and you build relationships.

BRYAN SLINKER: The Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture will be presented by Dean Mary Rezac.

MARY REZAC: President Schulz, I take great pleasure in presenting to you 818 baccalaureate degree candidates from the Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNA BOLL: Hey, all you cool cats and kittens. Congratulations on graduating with the class of 2020.

Thank you to Dr. Shu, Derek Strong, and Dr. Murray for all your outstanding efforts this year. We couldn't have done it without you. I'm so proud to become a Coug. Thank you.

BRYAN SLINKER: The Honors College will be presented by Dean M. Grant Norton.

M. GRANT NORTON: President Schulz, of the candidates presented, I'm proud to announce that 160 were part of the Honors College.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ALIDA MELSE: Hi there. My first memory of the Honors College was the ice cream social out next to Thompson Flats. From that moment, the Honors College has been a source of growth, of support, and there's been an overwhelming sense of community.

BRYAN SLINKER: The Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine will be presented by founding Dean John Tomkowiak.

JOHN TOMKOWIAK: President Schulz, it is my distinct pleasure to present to you the 43 baccalaureate degree candidates from the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JACQUELINE LAGESON: Hi. I'm Jacqueline, and I am graduating as a dietitian from the College of Medicine. One reason I loved my experience at WSU was being a part of a close community

that all had a similar interest in health. Working with the different programs allowed me to learn so much more than just nutrition.

BRYAN SLINKER: The candidates for the College of Nursing will be presented by Interim Dean Mel Haberman.

MEL HABERMAN: President Schulz, I take pleasure in presenting to you 171 baccalaureate degree candidates and candidates for the masters, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and PhD degrees from the College of Nursing.

CADE SANCHEZ: WSU has been a place where I've not only developed the skills that I'll be taking with me into my career as a nurse. But it's also been a place where I've developed and formed some incredible relationships with peers and with the incredible faculty here at WSU.

So I know that I speak for my fellow graduating students when I say how much I'm going to miss the little WSU family that we've been a part of for the last couple years. And I know that we are all so excited to get out into the community and into the hospitals and begin the incredible profession that is nursing. So thank you, WSU. And go, Cougs.

BRYAN SLINKER: The College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be presented by Interim Dean Linda Garrelts MacLean.

LINDA GARRELTS MACLEAN: President Schulz, I take pleasure in presenting to you 155 Doctor of Pharmacy professional degree candidates from the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRANDY SEIGNEMARTIN: Happy Graduation, Cougs. I'm Brandy Seignemartin. And something I love about the Washington State University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is the incredible community of faculty, alumni, and preceptor mentors who support student pharmacists in finding their passions and exploring their interests. Thank you so much. Go, Cougs.

BRYAN SLINKER: The College of Veterinary Medicine will be presented by Associate Dean William Davis.

WILLIAM DAVIS: President Schulz, I take pleasure in presenting to you 126 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine professional degree candidates and 110 baccalaureate degree candidates from the College of Veterinary Medicine.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRETT BAERLOCHE: Hi. I'm Brett Baerloche with the College of Veterinary Medicine. And what I'm going to remember most about my time with vet med, besides graduating during a pandemic, is the family-like environment that I was surrounded with and the relationships I was able to make with not only my peers, but with my professors.

KIRK SCHULZ: Well, if all those videos don't get you excited and pumped for today, I don't know what will. So once again, at home, how about a "go, Cougs" on the count of three? 1, 2, 3. Go, Cougs.

Now, the part all of you have been waiting for-- upon recommendation of the faculty and by the authority of the board of regents and the statutes in the state of Washington, I hereby confer upon each of you fulfill its requirements the degree to which you have been recommended, with all of its privileges and obligations. Congratulations.

After the celebration, we invite you to look through the data link provided to see all the graduates of this great class and the newest members of the Cougar alumni family. We do have a few more people you might know, wanting to congratulate you, as well.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JAY INSLEE: Trudi and I want to give our big-time congratulations to the graduates and their families. You've done remarkable work, and it's been more remarkable coming through during these challenging times. It's an historic event, what you've done. And we know you're going to do great things for the state of Washington.

I've seen what Cougars can do-- Paul Allen, his genius, the leadership of Patty Murray, the courage of Steve Gleason. Cougars are integral to the success of our state. And I know you're going to make this even a better state.

JAMES N. MATTIS: As a fellow Tri-Citian, I want to add my heartfelt best wishes to each of you. It may seem crummy that there is no traditional graduation ceremony. But nothing takes away from what you have proven today, proven to your hometown, to your family, to yourselves, and soon to the world, that you can do anything that you put your mind to.

You never give up. You graduate at a wonderfully challenging time. Just like when your car needs gas in its tank, our country needs the knowledge you have gained. Nothing can stop you, my fine young graduates. You will take all the obstacles in stride, you will help others around you to succeed, and you will earn respect from those you admire as you bring vigor and values to work and as you carve out your bright future.

So well done, Cougars. Keep charging. Don't let anyone or anything tell you you can't do again what you proved here.

MORGAN WEAVER: I just want to say congratulations to all of you. I know there's been so many ups and downs in college, and the last four years has been amazing with all of you. And I'm so excited to be graduating. And Washington State has been one of the best times I've ever had. So thank you all so much.

MIKE WORTHY: Adapting to change is a critical life skill, and you've had a healthy dose of that this year. I wish you good health and every success.

DAN NEWHOUSE: Hello. And congratulations, Washington State University class of 2020. You should be proud of all you have accomplished, and I can't wait to see what you will do.

MARIA CANTWELL: I want to add my congratulations to everybody from Washington State University. This ceremony shows what makes our state so great, with more than 5,500 students from 45 different states and 30 different countries graduating.

I know you're going to do great things. I know it's a time of great adversity. But out of that adversity comes also growth and opportunity. We're counting on you. So again, congratulations.

RYAN LEAF: Probably the best thing I ever did was choosing to become a Washington State Cougar and go to college there. And I just want to congratulate you all. Good luck in the future-- really, really proud of y'all.

JOHN FABIAN: As an engineer, pilot, and astronaut, I could always depend upon the Cougar spirit when I needed it most. And you can, too. Once a Coug, always a Coug. Congratulations.

XAVIER COOPER: Congratulations on your 2020 graduation. Be safe. Enjoy it. Get busy.

CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS: Congratulations. No matter where you are, today is a day to celebrate. It's a day to reflect on your own journey at Washington State University and to say thanks to every person who supported you along the way.

LUKE FALK: Hey, Cougs. This is like my 20th take.

If there's something that I wish somebody would have told me three years ago, it's that you can't please everybody. So I challenge us now to ask ourselves what we want out of this life, what we're here to do, and what motivates us and to pursue that wholeheartedly. And I'll leave you with this. Don't die with your music still in you.

MACKLEMORE: Wazzu! What's up? It's Macklemore, and I just wanted to say congratulations to the class of 2020. Y'all did it. And I was obviously supposed to come and party and celebrate with you guys. And that is not happening, which I am bummed about.

But we will get it eventually. I want to shout out all the campuses and just say, man, in these crazy, uncertain times, we're alive. What a time. Who knows what's to come?

But I do believe that there is more life to celebrate. So much love. Congratulations. And I'll see you guys soon. Peace.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ALL: Go, Cougs.

KIRK SCHULZ: Well, Cougs, we've only got one more thing left to do. And I think you all know what that is. So get limbered up and get ready. We've got one song left to sing, the song that unites Cougs around the world.

Let's join Butch in singing the Washington State University fight song. Go, Cougs.

[MUSIC - "THE FIGHT SONG"]

SPEAKER 2: (SINGING) Fight, fight, fight for Washington State! Win the victory! We're going to win the day for crimson and gray. Best in the West, we know you'll all do your best.

So on, on, on, on! Fight to the end! Honor and glory, we must win! So fight, fight, fight for Washington State and victory!

W-A-S-H-I-N-G-T-O-N S-T-A-T-E C-O-U-G-S, Go, Cougs!

KIRK SCHULZ: (SPEAKING) Absolutely the best song in the nation. We would like to give a special shout-out to BECU for their generous support of this virtual celebration. Thank you.

Congratulations again, class of 2020. Now, go out and conquer the world. Don't forget that WSU will always welcome you back home. We hope to see you soon, and go, Cougs.

[MUSIC - ANDY GRAMMER, "BACK HOME"]

ANDY GRAMMER: (SINGING) I'm going to need you to raise your glass. I don't care what you put in it. Here's to nights that you can't take back. We live hard, but we love to laugh.

We all thought that we'd get rich fast, hop the plane out for greener grass. Found out the greenest cash don't compare to the friends that last.

See, we won't forget where we came from. The city won't change us. We beat to the same drum.

No, we won't forget where we came from. The city can't change us. We beat to the same drum, the same drum.

Hey! La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah. La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, doe.

ALL: We don't matter where we go. We always find our way back home.

ANDY GRAMMER: La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah. La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, doe.

It don't matter where we go. We always find our way back home.

La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah. La, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, doe.

It don't matter where we go. We always find our way back home.

Hey! We always find our way back home. Yeah, we always find our way back home.

[MUSIC PLAYING]