



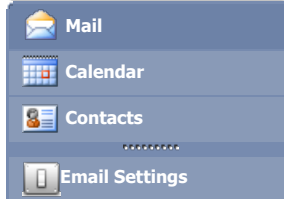
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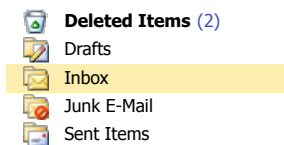
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Adams Releases Virtual Graduation Message

Alma Adams Press [sam.spencer@mail.house.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 4:49 PM

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Alma Adams Releases Virtual Graduation Message

Congresswoman Adams Addresses the Class of 2020: "this crisis has shown me more than just your potential – it has demonstrated your character."

Charlotte – Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (NC-12), released a virtual graduation message for members of the Class of 2020 today.

The message is [available here](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

“Graduates, under normal circumstances this ceremony would be with your friends and your family; your teachers, mentors, and classmates. We’d be meeting outside on a sunny day or in a gymnasium or auditorium on campus. You’d be hearing words of encouragement, or celebration; or soaring narratives that point to your bright future and your potential,” **said Congresswoman Adams via video**. “As we all know, that’s not the world that we’re living in today. But this tragedy, this crisis has shown me more than just your potential – it has demonstrated your character.”

The full remarks are below:

I’m Congresswoman Alma Adams, and I am honored to address you today.

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As we all know, that’s not the world that we’re living in today. But this tragedy, this crisis has shown me more than just your potential – it has demonstrated your character.

Inventive high school students put on a virtual prom and got DJ Jazzy Jeff on the ones and twos. Students from around the world put together an online graduation in Minecraft.

Students at Bennett College, where I taught for 40 years, banded together to ask for and plan a virtual graduation this weekend instead of waiting for an event at a future date.

Bennett's president said, "The ceremony is almost more important than the piece of paper ... You've worked so hard ... and having that moment when you get to be celebrated is very important."

I would add that what's more important than the ceremony or the piece of paper are the experiences and the education you leave with. After four years of hard work, late nights, cups of coffee, and maybe a couple of things you'd rather not hear your Auntie Alma talk about, you have earned the right to be recognized as a graduate wherever you go.

So, as we work for our country to go back to normal, don't regret anything about this crisis; instead, cherish the gifts that you have: a great education, a diploma, and yes – your bright future and your potential.

God Bless you, and best of luck as you venture out into the World.

Congresswoman Alma Adams has represented North Carolina's 12th Congressional District (Charlotte) since 2014 and has served on the House Committee on Agriculture since 2015, where she serves as Vice Chair of the committee. Additionally, she has served on the Education & Labor Committee since 2015 and as Chair of the Workforce Protections Subcommittee since 2019. She has served on the Financial Services Committee since 2019. Prior to her Congressional career, Adams was an educator for four decades.

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