

the Class of 2020 apart.

I'm especially proud of my mentee, Claire Tandoh, a graduating senior at Providence High School. I first met Claire three years ago at a Democratic Party meeting, and I'm incredibly proud of the young activist and community leader she has become. I know that she is not only the future but the present of our politics and our society.



The way we learn and teach has changed dramatically during this challenging time, and you all have met these challenges head-on. North Carolina's teachers went straight from leading classrooms to video conferences, and our students have adapted to a new learning environment from their homes and still give their all to their education. And for many parents, this summer is a much-needed break from providing homeschool support while also balancing their jobs.

Education is the key to success for every North Carolinian. I know that without teachers who believed in me, my family nor I would never have made it to where we are today. It was my high school math teacher believing in me that set me down the path towards my master's degree in statistics, and my sister's experience with education led her to become a public school teacher herself in my rural home-county.

I am so proud of our teachers and students for showing up for their education, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. While this isn't the senior year that any of us expected, I have faith that each and every student – and teacher – in North Carolina who has made the best of this situation will be able to use the grit, resolve, and tenacity that they've developed to fight for what they believe in for the rest of their lives.

Sincerely,

Cynthia

P.S. While our teachers are stepping up to today's challenges, they still need to be shown that they are valued in our community and paid fairly. But right now, extremists in Washington are doing everything they can do gut our public school system. I'm running for Congress to ensure educators have a voice, but I will need your help to get there. If you can, chip in today so I can stand up for NC-09's teachers and students in Congress.



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