

Hello, CU Denver Lynx and especially to those who are getting ready to graduate --

As we've all experienced, COVID-19 has upended the way we do things. Including our last two commencement ceremonies, which we held virtually to keep our campus community safe.

But we keep innovating and figuring out new ways of doing things. Today I want to share with you some very exciting plans we have in store for our 2021 Spring Commencement.

For the first time in CU Denver's history, this traditional celebration of our graduates will take place in two different formats. We will have virtual and in-person opportunities.

The virtual ceremony will include personalized recognition of each graduate and reading of your names. You can submit your own photos and expressions of gratitude and they will be displayed during the celebration. And we'll be shipping you a celebration kit with some fun items to commemorate your achievement.

And for all graduates who would like to celebrate in person, you can join our first-ever "Cross the Quad" celebration. Your name will be announced, you'll be presented with a diploma cover, and you'll walk across the stage in front of the historic Tivoli building to symbolize the completion of your studies at CU Denver and the beginning of your next phase of life. Professional photographers will be there to capture the moment. And we are going to livestream this socially distanced celebration, so your loved ones can safely watch you commemorate your achievement.

We are going to hold a number of these smaller celebrations so that we keep the numbers low, and people socially distanced and safe.

We know that that crossing a stage and having great pictures are important to our graduates. So we're inviting anyone who graduated in 2020, when we had virtual-only ceremonies, to join the in-person celebrations as well.

You can read all the details on the link at the end of this video.

This year's spring celebration will look different than what we're used to, but our pride in your accomplishment is unwavering. I can't wait to join you to celebrate your accomplishments this May.

For more information, go to: www.ucdenver.edu/commencement