



**School of Nursing**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Greetings Class of 2020.

This is Dr. Karen Solheim, Undergraduate Program Director. On behalf of all faculty who have had the privilege of being part of your journey to becoming a nurse, I bring warm greetings and congratulations.

You made it. Faculty have told me of your deep commitment to learning even as you navigated all the change in the last weeks. We commend you for finishing strong.

None of us know what it is like to be in your shoes or your place right now. Your experience as you graduate and enter the workforce now will surely shape your work life and career. No doubt some of that will be challenging.

Yet even as you go through the next few months, I hope you will remember that just as the context is influencing all of us, you have a powerful role in influencing the lives of patients, your work setting, your community and your larger network. Successfully completing courses, gaining licensure and joining us, as colleagues in the workplace are ways you are already shaping the future. You will bring a fresh wave of knowledge, skills, ideas, curiosity, and caring to all that you do. Your commitment to achieving good outcomes based on evidence and your professionalism will influence the teams you are a part of. You carry your knowledge as a nurse to your family, friends, and community. We admire your fortitude and courage, and we are proud of you.

I am recording this from Picnic Point on a beautiful evening. Being in nature helps me realize that so much life, goodness, and opportunity exists within and beyond the pandemic. That is true of your careers. Though your career is beginning during a health crisis, your path will extend well beyond the present circumstance. We envision great things for your future as a nurse. We are all eager to see where you go with your career and the significant ways you will contribute to better health for everyone. Please stay in touch. Congratulations Class of 2020.