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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY – ALAMOGORDO COMMENCEMENT

May 10, 2019

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

FOREIGN RELATIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INTELLIGENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Graduates – I am honored to recognize your success today. Earning a high school equivalency degree, associate's degree, or college degree is an achievement you will always value.

I am sure that most if not all of you faced obstacles along the way. We all encounter tough stretches. Those can't be avoided. But it's how we face those difficult times, those obstacles that define us. Each of you here today met those challenges – whether it was working or parenting while going to school, overcoming a learning disability, experiencing a deep loss – and you now have a great accomplishment to show for it.

You did not do it alone. We never do. Along the way, family and friends supported you, nurtured you, instilled confidence. Teachers and mentors encouraged you, motivated you, inspired you to do better. To all those here today who helped these young graduates achieve their goals – thank you.

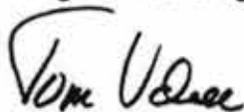
We are all part of a community. And I encourage all of you – in whatever you do, whatever field you end up in, wherever you go – to please give back to your community. Be part of something bigger than yourself. It could be working with seniors, or helping children learn to read. Helping immigrant families. Tackling climate change. Whatever inspires you. You will get back more than you give.

I have now been privileged to have been in public service for almost three decades. I can't imagine being more fulfilled in what I have been able to do. No matter what moves you – giving back to your community will fulfill you.

I must tell you that your generation truly inspires me. I see what you are doing here in New Mexico and across the nation. Your generation is taking on the pressing issues of the day. You are organizing, rallying, taking action. You are not waiting. You are not only the leaders of tomorrow. You are leading today.

In whatever your future holds: Follow your passions. Do not give up on your dreams. Figure out what you love, and do it. Each one of you is sparked by something. Let that spark become a flame and let it fuel you the rest of your lives. And let it be a beacon to others.

Congratulations again graduates! This is your day. Enjoy it.



Tom Udall
U.S. Senator

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