

Graduation Recognition Activities

“Our video production and messages from the student speakers and honorary degree recipients.”

“We used 10 second student video clips in place of walking across the stage. This is something that we plan on adding to future in-person events since it was so well-received. We also had a video congratulations message from faculty members that the students appreciated which we will also incorporate into future ceremonies.”

“Snapchat Filter on Instagram - we'd never used one before at an institution level.”

“Sent out Convocation in a Box with an in absentia degree granting video link.”

“We had our student speakers speak, and the MN Orchestra play P&C.”

“We did not do anything for the graduates yet. I've been doing graduate spotlights on our social media account but that's really all we've done to this point. I wish our administration allowed me to do something else for them.”

“We are having two ceremonies for the first time.”

“We had a month to develop, communicate, and execute a plan. Not sure that's unique to us, but certainly required an unprecedented amount of creativity from our team and colleagues.”

“Faux ivy was sent to all undergraduates who did not participate in SPU's unique Ivy Cutting ceremony.”

“We were able to collaborate with one of UChicago's student a cappella groups and they produced a special video for the Class of 2020.”

“The amount of virtual ceremonies we had collaborating within colleges and at all University levels.”

“We mailed a letter from the President, diploma cover, three copies of the program book, commemorative tassel and alumni key chain to approximately 4,500 students who applied to graduate. It was a large undertaking in the midst of working remotely.”

“Virtual Commencement Ceremony - video collage and commemorative Commencement in a Box mailed out.”

“We were able to make our virtual Commencement look exactly like our in-person Commencements by including both live and pre-taped portions.”

“We are still planning on an in-person Fall ceremony, but sent gift packages in late April, and are sending diploma packages in July.”

“Collaboration.”

“Reading personal messages.”

“The enthusiasm of our name readers, all CSULB alumni, parents or faculty.”

“Messages from regional and national celebrities.”

“The combination of live and recorded elements, as well as the introduction of Student and Faculty Mace Holders.”

“The role social media played in gathering graduate content. The way our team found new purpose for creative assets in a digital format.”

“Bringing other creative elements to the ceremony.”

“We used picturemosaics.com to create a Class of 2020 picture album/mosaic, and it was so well received we will probably do one every year.”

“We are doing a social media “grad stories” campaign which has brought out encouraging stories we otherwise would not have heard.”

“We planned to do car parade, but got cancelled due to Provincial Health Orders.”

“I’m not sure it was unique, but, the President’s involvement with the graduating students was valuable and he did a great job at communicating with them.”

“We provided a Commencement in a Box package to each graduate which contained a graduation cap, tassel and FSCJ signet, a diploma cover with letter from the college president, a Bachelor Program flyer, and an Alumni auto decal. The grads loved it!!”

“The President’s video was great congratulating on the day they were to graduate. We have not had our official Commencement and that is planned for October.”

“Special gift boxes to all May 2020 grads.”

“The Commencement ceremony was broadcasted on our local television station.”

“Having graduation cards that our graduates can share on social media.”

“We did it in Minecraft! ;) It was a whole new thing and fun to learn all about the new and meet the students where they wanted to be.”

“The watch-live pre-recorded ceremony and graduation boxes sent to graduates.”

“Graduates participating from home using social media. :-)”

“Our “shout out” video wall.”

“Avatars.”

“Virtual orchestra of students performing Pomp and Circumstance, surprise appearance by Tony Fauci, and incorporating student photos and videos throughout the experience.”

“Social Media week of graduation celebration prompts.”

“Latin Honors read for undergrads and dissertation titles read for Ph.D. students.”

“We designed a completely new website to celebrate our graduates.”

“Still being able to come together virtually even though we postponed the majority of our ceremonies. Seeing the support from faculty and staff that wanted to wish our graduates well and give them encouragement.”

“The tone of the messages.”

“A celebration package was sent.”

“Merged all of our keynote speakers and student speakers.”

“We had Virtual Recognition Ceremonies, but were very clear these did not replace the in-person events, which were postponed to an undermined date. Also Digital Swag on our website was pretty popular.”

“A week, long of virtual Grad activities using Instagram Stories and YouTube.”

“Virtual Presentation of Graduates.”

“Custom grad boxes with diploma covers, program, and gifts.”

“We had an online celebration via social media and had a wonderful response rate. Faculty, staff, and administrators participated, and it was a hit!”

“We arranged for Yo-Yo Ma to play "Pomp and Circumstance" and Dave Matthews performed a new song written during COVID-19.”

“We dressed up, decorated a van, created cool grad boxes and hand delivered as many as we could, then mailed the rest.”

“Registration and Records collaborated with university communications and marketing to do a graduation video with student stories, a time lapsed video of our free expression being painted by a muralist who dedicated the mural to the Class of 2020, and we used student speaker audition tapes to highlight their stories and voices, since a student speaker for May 2020 wasn't selected. Other departments/colleges also had virtual celebrations.”

“We treated it like a party, strobe lights, dj, the whole works.”

“Using Crowdcompass to create more engagement and excitement with countdown theme days for posting photos along with gamification.”

“Not sure it is unique, but we are hosting a virtual celebration this year and a ceremony/first year reunion next Spring. The buy-in with students has been acknowledging that they did not get to spend their last semester together with the reunion portion of next year's celebration.”

“We are hoping to hold a ceremony for Spring and Summer graduates on October 10, 2020.”

“We placed an ad in the two Provincial Newspapers with the Grads names and degrees.”

“Creating Grad Boxes that were packaged and sent to all of our 2020 graduates.”

“Our live tassel turn with our President.”

“Congratulatory Website.”

“Our first ever "Toast to our Graduates" video.”

“Professional photo montage of students from move-in to graduation set to copyrighted music by the Chainsmokers and professionally recorded virtual choir projects for student singers.”

“I was able to track down two student to send messages to their classmates, and instead of a Commencement speaker we were able to just have two faculty speak and I feel that meant more than anything.”

“Nothing really unique - it feels like our regular ceremony - only on video!”

“Our Social Media campaign and the ending video compilation with the Empire State of Mind song which we typically always play at the end of the ceremony.”

“We created a tribute video was moving and got a great response from grads, families and alumni.”

“Our student blessing.”

“Including video animations to the program to create energy in between speakers.”

“We installed a 30 foot sticker where our grads would have celebrated and used it on social media to congratulate the Class of 2020.”

“Recognizing our graduates on a virtual platform.”

“That we maintained the separate ceremonies for each one of our schools and colleges within University of the Pacific.”

“Social media engagement.”

“Students were happy to receive a cap & tassel and to have they name and degree displayed during the virtual ceremony.”

“We sent paper graduation caps to all the students' home addresses and encouraged them to decorate them for a "virtual" cap toss held as part of the virtual celebration.”

“In lieu of a virtual Commencement (we will host the class of 2020 on campus for an in-person ceremony next summer) we produced a tribute video that premiered on what would have been Commencement Day.”

“We saw leadership and faculty who never cared or attended Commencement get involved and want to participate.”

“Our President, who served as host, spoke live! We also created custom mobile video units for our speakers to use and contracted with a vendor to create an animation of our mascot experiencing a Commencement in our traditional stage setting on campus.”

“It was mainly social media resources. Our president pre-recorded a short message due to hoping for an in-person event later for all to attend.”

“How quickly the digital team was able to pull it together. They had two weeks to organize and implement.”

“The style of our 27-minute virtual celebration seemed pretty distinctive from other celebrations. More of a dynamic, TV-style tone and format. We also had a virtual reality "street fair" (in lieu of our pre-Commencement social event), which had mixed reviews.”

“Opening segment.”

“Graduates not wanting to participate in any type of virtual ceremony.”

“More than 2500 video or text messages of celebration and congratulations from Community-- faculty, family, classmates, alumni.”

“For our university, it was the incorporation of video assets like congratulation messages from faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, deans, college delegates, etc...”

“Commemorative Envelopes.”

“We are hosting a live virtual event using our Radio and Television studio. Students were invited through WebEx to participate. We are holding multiple sessions that are specific the school the student graduated from.”

“Diploma mailing with Marketing & Communications team that included nice tokens of congratulations from various campus partners. Everyone came together to recognize our graduates.”

“We held a Senior Celebration which featured an interactive website where lectures were posted; messages from families, students and communities; bingo; photos - this was new and was very successful!”

“Managed everything in house for cost savings and making things personal. Nothing was outsourced.”

“Virtual slides of each graduate.”

“While we followed in the footsteps of our colleagues at other campuses, I feel that the messages in our videos from our President, Provost, and Dean's are what made it unique and meaningful to our students.”

“We are going to do a Drive in Movie Theatre ceremony.”

“Alumni Shout-Outs; Graduate User Generated Content.”

“We did a celebration instead of a Commencement, a short 30 minute broadcast live streamed to the world. Overall around 50,000 people were able to see our celebration video!”

“The level of student participation.”

“SDSU Alumni Program - Sponsor a Tassel for the Class of 2020.”

“We created an online platform that will live onward for the Class of 2020 always. We received over 450 unique messages for students to celebrate with.”

“Due to size, we normally have to combine schools/colleges in paired ceremonies. This year we were able to give each school/college its own, personalized ceremony.”

“We held 15 unique ceremonies at the times they were originally scheduled.”

“We purchased caps for our seniors; normally all regalia is borrowed from our College inventory and then immediately returned after an in-person ceremony. This year, we purchased caps and with the year-specific tassels in the class color, mailed to each student, wherever they were, here or abroad.”

“Recognition Video.”

“It was less than 30 minutes long and was NOT a Commencement ceremony (despite the official conferral of degrees). It was a celebration of the class.”

“Celebratory video that was NOT a degree conferral.”

“Our decision to postpone was made quickly and since our ceremony is the end of April, we had to move fast.”

“We created an online toolkit for our graduates with IG stickers, FB frames, Zoom backgrounds, a music playlist, and more for our graduates to access and utilize to celebrate.”

“We incorporated interviews with graduates who were also essential workers.”

“We had a 30 min ceremony and cut some of the "talking heads" who are usually pretty un-inspirational. We kept the student speaker and President speeches and they were a hit. We also incorporated over 800 family video snippets.”

“We were able to send "care packages" to our graduates to help them celebrate as we have postponed their celebration.”

“Our celebration video was hosted by a local news anchor, who's an institute alumna in Broadcasting. Helped create good energy right from the top.”

“Nothing unique but we sent the graduates "Commencement in a Box" and they celebrated along with us during the virtual ceremony.”

“The order of ceremony changed to augment a virtual experience. Students submitted photos of someone hooding them, and guests loved that. The live comments in YouTube were excellent.”

“We were inspired by various institutions across North America. We kept our recognition video simple and we followed what we normally would do at a live ceremony. The unique part specifically for us was we upped our social media and online presence with "virtual swag". We

also worked closely with our communications department and this has not happened in the past.”

“We utilized a digital Yearbook feature which half of registered grads interacted with by uploading a photo.”