



To the class of 2020

In any year, Convocation symbolizes the culmination of a personal journey—one that can be grueling and yet full of discovery. In 2020, this statement could not be more true. Although this has been a most unusual year for the entire world, this pandemic does not have to define us.

What defines you are your life experiences, memorable people, and most importantly—that which you find within yourself: your attitude, your inner strength, your curiosity and compassion. Never be afraid to ask for support, or to offer it to others. Remain open to the idea of possibility. Embrace the power of working together; all people, all disciplines, all communities, all races, since diversity will only strengthen our society. We need to work together now more than ever.

This year, Convocation will be different in format, but the meaning and reason we gather to celebrate remains the same. We will applaud those of you who came to the University of Manitoba to uncover new pathways to grow understanding and advance reconciliation, to inspire creative works that will enrich our arts communities, to develop tomorrow's technology and continue to build a prosperous future for Manitoba. We will celebrate those of you who are driven to prevent infectious diseases on a global scale and closer to home, many of you already joining COVID-19 efforts in our province.

At the University of Manitoba, you found your voice and we have no doubt you will continue to find new ways to use your passion to spark change. From here, you can go anywhere. Congratulations on all you've achieved.

Anne Mahon
Chancellor

David T. Barnard, O.M., Ph.D., FRSC
President and Vice-Chancellor



**University
of Manitoba**