

I am proud to say that I've worked extremely hard in my academics as well as my personal growth for all of my life achievements, especially as a senior at San José State University. I had set a goal for myself when I transferred from Mission College, city college, to a university. My goal going into SJSU was to receive a dean's award and proudly walk with my "cords" along with my cap and gown on graduation day. This year of 2020, the graduates will be celebrating all achievements a little differently. In a setting that hasn't been done before due to the coronavirus pandemic.

There were coronavirus cases that arose in the month of December in 2019 in America. As time passed, the number of cases increased as more and more individuals got tested for the coronavirus which was then formerly known as COVID-19 in early 2020. COVID-19 has affected the lives of many individuals around the world as it was considered a pandemic virus that spread to several countries. The virus attacks the human body and it is frightening to know that the virus can result in death if not detected and treated. The virus has taken the lives of many individuals around the world such as husbands, wives, children, friends and loved ones. I know this can seem frightening to an extent, however, we now rely on proper sanitation more than ever before. It is enforced by law to wear face masks in public anywhere and everywhere you go as that has become the new norm. We now also rely on virtual communication more than ever before.

Due to COVID-19, all educational institutions transitioned from in-class to online instruction. The initial transition from in person to online instruction was an experience to never forget. At first, the switch to strictly online caused a bit of confusion among all individuals who were trying to adjust. I must say that it has been nice to be out of work for some time and strictly focusing on my studies during this time of confusion and uncertainty caused by COVID-19. I've been a full-time employee throughout my entire educational career which has been a challenge within itself. I stopped working in mid March of this year as many businesses slowly started closing. That also caused many individuals to lose their jobs which is very unfortunate. The online instruction has provided an additional platform to use such as Zoom. I appreciate the experience and skills gained throughout the usage of Zoom throughout my last spring semester at SJSU.

My little family has helped me get through this last semester, meanwhile, in quarantine during the coronavirus. My wife, Jessica, and my furry pals, Ash and Java, continue to provide an immense amount of love, support and recognition. They are the reason for my hard work and my desire to thrive. After so many years of being in college, there were a few times when I felt like throwing the towel or simply uninspired but my little family always gives me the little push that I need to continue to thrive and reach my goals. I would like to give an immense shout out as recognition to my lovely wife Jessica Noemi. I know you have heard me say that I couldn't have done it without you. You are truly amazing and are my lobster for life. I couldn't have done it

without your pep talks and your consistent recognition which helps me continue to thrive and succeed. The graduating class of 2020 will be celebrated with a never done before virtual recognition ceremony. I will be ready to celebrate along with the virtual ceremony by wearing my cap and gown along with my cords achieved during my time at SJSU. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2020! We did it! Lo hicimos!