Dear class of 2019:

Congratulations on your graduation! It took much work and effort in your studies to get you to this point, and you should be proud of all you have accomplished.

Teachers and school leaders serve their students and communities every day. As a result, the career path you have chosen allows you to perpetually enact our motto, “to be consumed in service.” Education is power and this power has the ability to transform lives. By using this power to teach others, you will in turn be empowering them. Never underestimate the difference that one teacher or school leader can make in the life of child or adolescent. You have the ability to change the world, so be the change you want to see, one student at a time.

As you make this transition toward what should prove to be a new and exciting part of your lives, I hope you will remember all that you have learned and look back fondly on the relationships you have made. Now that you are graduating, I can let you in on a secret: we as a faculty have been learning from you, while you have been learning from us. Students like you help us remember why we entered the field of education in the first place and inspire us to continually strive to be better teachers and leaders ourselves. As a result, we thank you. Always remember that you have a home here at Mercy among the faculty and alumni of the School of Education. After all, once a Maverick, always a Maverick!

I and the faculty of the School of Education wish you the best of luck with all your future endeavors!

Best wishes,

Eric Martone, Ph.D.

Interim Dean, School of Education