



You have faced disruptions we never could have imagined even a few months ago. And yet, you persisted. The world needs your talents, skills and knowledge. And especially right now, we need your determination as we tackle the big challenges that lie ahead.

Kate Brown
Oregon Governor

“Go forth and be the builders of the ‘Beloved Community!’”



What a milestone, a remarkable achievement! You have successfully completed twelve years of education that allows you to spread your wings and soar. The wind is behind you!

“Go reach for the stars!”

Today, I congratulate you and encourage you to

dream big, work hard and remember to give back to your community. Your dreams, your efforts and your perseverance will allow you to write your own success story. You will do so and you will do well. Congratulations! Go reach for the stars!

Kay Dean Toran
President & CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon



The great South African President Nelson Mandela said: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite” and “There can be no greater gift than that of giving one’s time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.”

Jefferson High School Class of 2020 – the world needs you to internalize these words, and to become great and compassionate human beings. Go forth and be the builders of the “Beloved Community” that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught generations to envision.

Avel Louise Gordly
Oregon State Senator, Retired

GRADUATING CLASS OF JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Although I’m sure this was not the graduation you expected, I urge you to embrace this challenge by stepping into the future with renewed resilience, vision, and purpose. Please spend some time thinking about how you, our future leaders, can use what you have learned to help your community, country, and the world.

This crisis has brought to light many inequities and challenges that exist in our society. I have been inspired by the work your generation has already done to address the climate crisis, gun violence prevention, social justice, and so much more. I know that if anyone can take this curveball that life has thrown you and use it to make a home run, it’s the Class of 2020.



Earl Blumenauer
U.S. Representative

“Use what you have learned to help your community, country, and the world.”

I am so proud of you. When faced with this pandemic, you pivoted when tested, kept going, and built up your resiliency.

Your graduation marks your passage into adulthood. As you continue to live your life, take strength and wisdom from Maya Angelou, who said, “You may not control all of the events that happen to you, but you can decide to not be reduced by them.”

I hope that you’re inspired to make the world better than you when were born. I can’t wait to see what you do. Congratulations on your achievements!

Adrienne Nelson, Oregon Supreme Court Justice



This advertisement was envisioned and paid for by **Thomas Lauderdale** and his band **Pink Martini**. Thomas and the band have a long history with Jefferson. In addition to spearheading fundraisers for the school, Thomas and lead singer **China Forbes** stepped in to teach the Jefferson High School Gospel Choir when its director **Maurice Wright II** moved to Ohio to attend Wilberforce in 2002. Earlier that year, Thomas took the choir into the recording studio to record backup vocals for the song “Tempo Perdido”, which was released on Pink Martini’s third album, *Hey Eugene!* Once in the studio, he had the choir record several of its own songs with pianists **Janice Scroggins** and **Tetteh Kofi**. This group of songs remains unreleased.