Hello graduates! On behalf of the entire Chico State Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your graduation! Today, as you walk across this stage, you become a member of an elite group, the Chico State Alumni. It is an honor to have the opportunity to share this moment with you after the culmination of all of your hard work and dedication to your education.

It was just 11 years ago that I sat where you are sitting today. Born and raised in the Sacramento area, coming to Chico was one of the best choices I have ever made and I am sure you all feel the same way. Not only did I receive a world-class education, I met many great educators, made life long friends, and grew to love the city of Chico. It was my hope to stay in Chico and build a family and career, but it was necessary to move back to Sacramento to embark on my future. I was fortunate enough to begin my career 10 years ago and I am proud to be a successful grad still employed by the same company I started with.

I know you each and every one of you will find the same success because we Chico State graduates have a unique quality about us that definitely separates us from others. We have learned the abilities to interact with others with ease, put ourselves out there to be one step ahead, and to be fearless. Some may say we get these qualities because of our ability to “socialize” with one another while in and out of the classroom. While that may be partly true, the fact is, these qualities come from the education you received here from the exceptional professors, mentors, and alumni. Keep that in mind when you walk across this stage and enter the real world. Employers want you because of the qualities you obtained at this university and I have seen it first hand.

When you embark on that journey into the real world, I implore you to keep The Chico Experience close to your hearts. Anyone who has had the privilege of being a member of this campus and community understands what this term represents. The Chico Experience can be defined as your memories at Bidwell Park, bike rides through and around downtown, or your favorite spot on campus. For me, it was sitting outside of Plumas Hall with all my other classmates waiting for class, exchanging notes and stories from the weekend past. Treasure the time you have spent here at Chico State.

As the Chico State motto reads “Today decides Tomorrow,” I would like each of you to think about the future of this university and the next generations of graduates who will follow you. While you may be leaving today, you will always be a part of this great university as an alum. We, at the Alumni Association, offer the link between the campus and Chico State graduates. While the association hosts a plethora of events and activities, we also strive to engage current students, advocate for a prosperous future of the university, and explore opportunities to enhance the beauty of our campus. It is my hope to see each and every one of you as an active member of what you can now call, YOUR Alumni Association.

Congratulations graduates!