

MYNDEE KAY LARSEN

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI PRESIDENT

April 30, and May 1, 2021



Hello Thunderbird Nation! As a graduate of the Communication Department, a former T-bird basketball player and now a proud member and current president of the National Alumni Council, it is my distinct honor to congratulate and welcome you across the finish line into a group of more than 60,000 alumni.

Now, I know you thought you were free and clear of homework, but I am also here today to give you your first alumni assignment. Don't worry, there isn't going to be a quiz or even a grade, and it's something you probably learned in kindergarten. It is about treating others the way you want to be treated, sharing what you have with the world and wishing upon others what you wish upon yourself. It is the ultimate standard and that is why it's taught to children at an early age and why it has been dubbed The Golden Rule. And gold is great. Gold is shiny and it indicates winning. But you and I both know that Thunderbirds do things with a little more intensity and a lot more hustle. So, your first task is to join the rest of the alumni in turning the Golden Rule red. Making the Golden Rule red means that you will

- * Share your experiences and the opportunity you had to learn from the brilliant minds of world class professors at SUU

- * Tell people about the history and traditions you participated in -- like becoming a True T-Bird or the one you completed today by walking under Carter

Carillon. And most importantly, on Fridays, we wear red. That doesn't end, never stop doing that!

* Shout from the rooftops that you graduated from an institution that put students first by not raising tuition for three years and offering three-year degrees for those who need it.

* Make sure people know you earned a degree that included real world experience and activity in social issues like childcare, animal preservation, and treating addiction in rural areas -- That during your time here, this degree included making a difference, a legacy all of us continue.

* Post your pictures of SUU's outdoor campus and your adventures. Let people know there is a place where students are empowered to explore, engage, and experience the outdoors in the most beautiful place on earth.....complete with red rocks. A setting you got to learn in every single day.

The alumni are very excited to have you join us in this initiative because the first kindergarten lesson may have been the golden rule, but the first thing you learn on campus at SUU is once a T-Bird, Always a T-Bird. And this is your chance to start the "always" part.

Finally, as the newly minted alumni of Southern Utah University you already have so much in common with all of us. Like us veteran alumni, you are already dedicated to the institution of SUU, you're already wearing red, and at some point, during this pandemic all of us were on a zoom call where someone said, "You're on Mute." So, my most exciting job today is to tell you that it is about time to get loud. You cannot graduate on mute!

Everybody, make sure you have your mics on so that we can officially celebrate your induction into the Southern Utah Alumni Association. Now that your

masked vocal cords are ready, make sure your tassel is on the right so you can move it to the left. Got it?

Class of 2021 please stand. On the count of three move your tassel over.
Ready.....1, 2, 3!

Congratulations!