

To the 2016 Commencement Planning Committee, Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Volunteers,

Thank you for lending your time, energy, encouragement, and talents to help make this such a memorable, celebratory, and exciting event for our graduates and their families.

As you know, Commencement is a special time here at Governors State University. Students who have worked tirelessly for years finally receive the fruits of their labor: a GSU degree. For many of them, this is the start of the next chapter of their lives or the beginning of a change in their professional careers.

For parents, families, and friends, this weekend is the product of years of support and encouragement of their graduate. It is a day they will never forget.

Board of Trustees Chair Brian Mitchell said, "Ceremonies that go that smoothly and look effortless are actually the result of immense creativity, planning, and hard work. All of our guests were impressed. The Commencement ceremonies sent all the right messages about GSU. And you did it all on a reduced budget. Most important, our graduates and their families had an experience they will remember forever."

From President Maimon: "Yesterday was amazing---our best Commencement ever. Please convey my deep gratitude to the Commencement Committee and to all who made yesterday a great success."

With the number of graduates and doctoral candidates that we experienced this year, along with all of the intricate planning and details that must happen in every area of these types of events, there is simply no way we could make these events a success without you. Whether you are robing the students or faculty, directing parking, answering questions, coordinating or supervising a specific area, attending meetings, working behind the scene, or fulfilling some other responsibility, you made a tremendous difference. Your contribution ensured our event was one of the highest caliber ever.

Best,

Karen Caesar-Smith

Director of University Events and Commencement Coordinator