



December 4, 2020

Dear Scholar,

On behalf of all of us at the Mastercard Foundation: Congratulations!

All of your hard work—the late nights studying and hours of lectures and assignments — has paid off. You've done it! We could not be more proud of you. We join your families and friends in celebrating this important milestone in your life.

I know this is an exciting time, but it may also feel daunting—particularly in our rapidly changing world. Here is what I hope you'll remember: As you look out to the future, it's always looking back to you. It is as bright as your ambition is bold, as innovative as your imagination is wild, as strong as you are hopeful, and as secure as you are resilient. It's not pre-determined, it is pliable. It is yours to shape and you are ready for that task. I believe you're ready for that work.

This is what the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program has been preparing you for: the work of leading and serving your communities and countries. The work of solving old problems, building new products, and scaling solutions. The work of leaving things better than you found them.

In this next phase of your journey, remember to hold on to the values that define you. Be kind. Honest. Humble. Courageous. Hold fast to the friendships that have carried you to this success—even as you forge new ones. Please stay connected to your fellow Mastercard Foundation Scholars through the Baobab platform, on Facebook and on Instagram (#MCFScholars). Remember, the path of leadership can't be travelled alone.

I look forward to seeing what you do with your education and how you shape your future. I know you will do something remarkable.

We're rooting for you. I'm rooting for you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reeta Roy".

Reeta Roy
President and CEO, Mastercard Foundation