

NCAT and Northland Aerospace Provide Ground and Aerial Coverage for 2020 LHS Graduation Ceremony

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With the current COVID-19 guidelines in place, the Thief River Falls, MN school district needed to think outside the box to create a graduation ceremony experience for their senior class. In doing so, they came up with a plan of having the ceremony in the Northland parking lot, with each senior having a designated parking spot and were put in a rotation which would allow each student to walk across the stage and receive their diploma while still adhering to the social distancing guidelines.

The National Center for Autonomous Technologies (NCAT) and the Northland Community and Technical College Aerospace Site worked with Lincoln High School to capture the ceremony and stream on YouTube. Since students were only allowed immediate family at the ceremony, extended family and friends and the community were encouraged to watch the event take place over YouTube Live. The NCAT and Northland Aerospace team assisted with the ground and aerial coverage of the event. Zackary Nicklin, NCAT Co-PI and Northland Unmanned Aerial Systems Instructor flew a DJI Inspire 2 drone to capture a birds-eye view of the special event.

Directly following the ceremony, the seniors and their immediate families embarked on a six-mile caravan parade through Thief River Falls where their families and members of the community filled the curbs to congratulate the senior class on their accomplishment. NCAT and the Northland Aerospace team were thrilled to be involved in capturing this event that gave the senior class students the opportunity to walk across the stage and receive their diploma while their families watched on from their vehicle or YouTube Live.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen and congratulations to the Lincoln High School class of 2020!

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