

To the Class of 2020 and Their Families

May 27, 2020

To the Class of 2020 and their families,

I was sorry to learn that, due to a technology issue, a number of you did not receive yesterday my [original letter about Commencement](#). I'm sorry if you learned this information from someone other than me. I have also received a number of emails expressing disappointment with the decision to hold a virtual Commencement. This was not an easy decision to make.

We are committed to organizing a creative and upbeat virtual Commencement celebration honoring all of you on August 2 at 1:00 p.m. Earlier in the month, we held a virtual ceremony for international students, and it was a very successful event. We're confident that will be true for August 2nd as well. We know it's not the same as our traditional ceremony on the Kemp Commencement Plaza. Nevertheless, our campus team is working on imaginative solutions to make this event special for you.

Please know that we considered a variety of options to still allow for an in-person gathering in August, but each of these presented public health concerns under timelines in the state of Illinois guidance for large events. We do intend to gather the Class of 2020 at some point in the future to celebrate your accomplishments, but right now there are too many unknowns. As the national pandemic response continues to progress, we will consider all our options.

For now, we felt it was important to go ahead and honor this important milestone, and we look forward to still celebrating with you, albeit in a virtual fashion, on August 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Until then, be safe and well.

With best regards,

S. Georgia Nugent

President



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