

Subject: Message from Dean Brent: May 2020 Commencement

Date: Friday, March 20, 2020 at 5:27:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Warner School Dean's Office

To: Warner School Dean's Office

Dear Warner School Community,

I want to follow up on [President Mangelsdorf's announcement about the decision to cancel campus Commencement ceremonies](#) for members of the Class of 2020 scheduled for May. I know that I write on behalf of all faculty and staff when I say how heartbroken we are that we will not be able to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates with them and their families as planned in May. We understand well the profound effort needed to earn these degrees, and we would like nothing more than to gather in Eastman Theater to celebrate and acknowledge each graduate with the reading of graduates' bios, a Warner tradition. Given the uncertainty of when it might be safe to bring large groups together again, we know this is the responsible action to take.

While we continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our students progress in their programs and stay on track for degree completion, we will defer making decisions about alternative approaches to celebrating with our graduates until we are on the other side of this unprecedented world event. I can promise you this, we are committed to finding ways to honor you and make this major milestone special and memorable, even if different than we all imagined.

More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, I welcome your thoughts. Please share your hopes and wishes with me at DeansOffice@warner.rochester.edu. Your feedback will be incredibly important as we navigate this process. Together, I am confident we'll come up with a great way to honor our graduates' successes.

I am thankful for everyone at Warner—our students, faculty and staff—who are working to advance our mission even in the face of this challenge.

Please stay safe,

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