

Dear College of Idaho Community,

Thank you for your patience as we are processing ideas for events to honor our graduating Class of 2020 in the age of COVID-19 distance learning. We wanted to have a plan in place by the end of this week in regards to the previously scheduled Commencement event of May 23rd so that travel plans could be made accordingly. With the uncertainty of what the next two months will bring, we will not be having the traditional Commencement in-person ceremony on May 23rd. However, in consultation with senior students, administration and the special events team, we are planning two commencement events.

The first one will be a video event at 10 a.m. Mountain Standard Time on May 23rd as it had been scheduled. Students will be the primary producers of this event that will be recorded, and then debuted via video stream on the College's Facebook and YouTube channels. Our hope is that as many of the community as possible can view the event as it is debuted live in the Mountain Standard Time Zone, but it will also be archived for later viewing. The format is not finalized, but we promise it will be fun. The event will include a student speaker, but no outside commencement speaker. Other details to follow and we will need help from our senior class to pull this off. Hannah Dalsoglio has agreed to chair the task force for planning. She has a team to help her along with our marketing and communications staff. If others would like to join this team, please just let Hannah know. We can use more help.

Secondly, a more traditional in-person commencement will happen sometime later in 2020 or perhaps even in 2021. We will be surveying students as to their preferred date and will be presenting at least three options. It's fine if you have already purchased your cap and gown. You will have a chance to walk across the stage to get your diploma (although you will already have received it prior). Please respond to the survey when it comes out so that we can nail down the date. Our Registrar team will be mailing out diplomas three weeks after the virtual event. Those who attend the in-person event will receive the diploma cover that traditionally is handed to students when they are announced at Commencement.

In the meantime, please plan on making May 23rd at 10 a.m. Mountain Time a virtual celebration. We could still have social distancing guidelines in place on May 23rd, but perhaps small watch parties could be planned for when the video is debuted on that Saturday. We will have more details as the planning goes forward and we get closer to the event.

Thanks for your continued support. We will get through these challenges together in true Yote fashion!

Co-Presidents Doug Brigham & Jim Everett