



President Office <presoff@fredonia.edu>

Message from President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Feb. 24, 2022

President's Office <President.Office@fredonia.edu>

Thu, Feb 24, 2022 at 9:46 PM

To: Faculty/Staff group <facultystaff@fredonia.edu>, All Registered students <students@fredonia.edu>



February 24, 2022

Dear Fredonia community:

Happy Thursday evening! I hope your week has been productive and enjoyable. I have a few things to share with you this evening.

195th Commencement

I am very pleased to announce that Ms. Trini Ross, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, will deliver the commencement address at the 10:00 AM ceremony of the 195th commencement exercises of SUNY Fredonia on May 21, 2022. Ms. Ross assumed her role as United States Attorney on October 11, 2021 after being nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. She is a native of Buffalo, NY and the first African American woman to hold this position.

As US Attorney, Ms. Ross has the responsibility for overseeing the prosecution of any federal criminal case brought within the 17 counties of Western New York. Previously, she served in several capacities including: Director of Investigations in the Legal Division of the National Science Foundation's Office of Inspector General; Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, where she served as the Senior Litigation Counsel and the Chief of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Section; Assistant Counsel in the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility and; Appellate Court Attorney for the New York State Supreme Court.

Ms. Ross received her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from The State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Law, in 1992; her M.A. from Rutgers University in 1990, and her B.A. from The State University of New York, at Fredonia, in 1988.

I am looking forward to welcoming Ms. Ross back to Fredonia. Soon I hope to announce the commencement speaker for the 3:00 PM ceremony. Our plan is to record both addresses and make them available to all graduates, their families, and members of our community.

COVID-19 Updates

I want to thank you for your continued efforts to remain vigilant against COVID-19. As of today, we have 3 students in isolation and 1 in quarantine. Since the beginning of the semester, a total of 51 students have completed isolation. While any COVID-19 infection is a concern, overall, we are doing very well as a campus to be safe from COVID-19, and I remain hopeful that the low infection rate will be maintained.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits

In an effort to increase accessibility to rapid tests, the campus received a donation of **free home test kits**. Thus, beginning on **Friday, Feb. 25, each student and employee can pick up a free test kit** (bring your **FREDcard**) **between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM at the Information Desk (next to Tim Hortons) in the Williams Center**. After Feb. 25, the remaining test kits will be available at the Information Desk while supplies last (M-F 4:30 PM - 10:00 PM; Saturdays 9:00 AM -10:00 PM; Sundays noon - 10:00 PM). Campus community members are encouraged to utilize these test kits whenever experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or following possible exposure. Many thanks to the Chautauqua County Health Department for making the kits available to us.

As always, students should report positive results to the Student Health Center (health.center@fredonia.edu) and state employees should report positive results to Human Resources (human.resources@fredonia.edu).

SUNY Mask Guidance

On February 22, 2022, SUNY provided updated guidance to campuses for the spring 2022 semester specific to masks and social distancing. This guidance urges each SUNY campus to work with their local health department in assessing the COVID-19 transmission rate on their campus and surrounding community in order to determine the need for indoor mask wearing. We are in the process of this evaluation and will communicate the campus plan once determined. I appreciate your patience regarding this. In the meantime, please continue to follow the current policy regarding masks.

Boosters

As a reminder, students who are [eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster](#) must send evidence of having received a booster to the Student Health Center (health.center@fredonia.edu). All SUNY students are [mandated to receive a COVID-19 vaccination booster](#).

If you still need a booster, please visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/> to schedule your booster at a location/time convenient to you.

Thinking about Spring

The few warmer days we had this week had me thinking about spring. Then I learned that there are two major winter storms headed our way. Well, this is Western New York. So we will just roll with it. Here are some things to look forward to,

notwithstanding: Daylight Saving Time begins on March 13, spring break is March 14-18, and spring officially begins on March 20. I hope the thought of these dates makes the remaining winter days and storms easier to endure.

I look forward to connecting with you again next week. In the interim, should you have questions about anything, please call my office or the office of any Vice President.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Very truly yours,

Dr. K

Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., Ph.D.

President and Professor

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