

Dear Campus Community:

We have reached the final week of spring semester 2020. Conducting all classes via distance education was not something any of us wanted, but I am so proud of how each of you has responded to this challenge. I am especially pleased Fredonia students will earn credits from this semester necessary to keep their educational progress on track. This unique semester is definitely one we will all remember.

Special congratulations to each of the nearly 1,300 students graduating from SUNY Fredonia at the end of this week. With only a few finals to go, you are definitely at the finish line.

Video for the Class of 2020. With Fredonia's Commencement ceremony postponed until August, we still wanted to celebrate the Class of 2020. The Department of Marketing and Communications has produced a video celebrating our graduating students. The video has several elements of a traditional Commencement, including student readers, a message from the senior class president, and the Star Spangled Banner sung by graduating students selected by the School of Music. Most importantly, it recognizes our 2020 graduates.

The video will be available from the Fredonia website on Saturday morning, May 16, the original Commencement date. Links to the video will also be provided on Fredonia's social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and in the "Announcements" section of <https://my.Fredonia.edu/>. We hope you and your family enjoy the video and are able to watch it together.

Caps and Gowns. Some students have inquired about purchasing a cap and gown package for photos or future celebrations with family. Regalia is available for purchase in the University Bookstore (open M-F, 9am-5pm), or online at https://www.fredoniabookstore.com/shop_main.asp? Many graduation items including apparel, cards, and diploma frames are also available.

Chancellor's Award for Excellence. Four Fredonia employees have received the 2020 Chancellor's Award for Excellence:

- **Dr. Naomi Baldwin**, Director of International Education, for Excellence in Professional Service
- **Dr. Rob Deemer**, Professor of Music, for Excellence in Faculty Service
- **Timothy Frerichs**, Professor of Visual Arts and New Media, for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities
- **Eric Skowronski**, Director of Extended Learning, for Excellence in Professional Service

Please join me in congratulating each of them for earning this prestigious system-wide recognition.

Credit/Refund. There is some confusion about whether all students, or just students living on campus, must apply for a credit or refund. The answer is **ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE CREDIT/REFUND FORM**, available [here](#) .

Credit/Refund and State-Funded Scholarships. Questions have been raised about state-funded scholarships and how they are handled per SUNY instructions. Here are the facts: credits/refunds will be based on the percentage of a student's bill not covered by any state-funded scholarship(s). For example, if a state-funded scholarship covers 10% of the student's bill, the student will receive 90% of the credit/refund, or less if there is an unpaid balance. This proportionate approach only applies to students with state-funded scholarships, and will not impact most of our students. And finally, Fredonia College Foundation scholarships, funded by a donor, are **NOT** state-funded scholarships.

Have a great Finals Week and please stay safe!

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Hefner, Ph.D.
Interim President