

**Dear Campus Community:**

**A full week of distance education has been completed, and there are only six more weeks before finals. This memo includes information on several important subjects, including the postponement of Commencement 2020. Also, if you have not seen it, here's a video featuring several SUNY Fredonia faculty <https://vimeo.com/401135078>**

**Commencement 2020 Postponed.** Given the need to protect the health of everyone, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Commencement ceremony to a later date. Senior Class President Deoniss Jackson has recommended seeking input from members of the Class of 2020 about several options before finalizing the exact date. All seniors will be receiving a separate survey soon.

**Please know that postponement of the ceremony does not delay receipt of degrees. As happens every year, transcripts are revised in May to reflect the exact date of graduation, and actual diplomas are mailed to graduates in early summer.**

**Special Video for 2020 Graduates.** Our Marketing and Communications team will be producing a video to celebrate the completion of graduation requirements for release on Saturday, May 16. It will include individual photos of members of the Class of 2020 and a preview of some of the elements that normally occur during Commencement. This video is a recognition of the special milestone 2020 graduates have achieved and will be designed to watch with family members. An email message explaining how you can submit your photo, if you choose to be in the video, will soon be sent to students eligible for the 2020 graduation ceremony. Your photo can be as formal or as zany as you desire.

**Distancing Means Safety for More than Yourself.** Below is part of an email I received this past weekend from Professor McEntarfer (English):

**"I know many students are carefully practicing social distancing measures, and I'm so grateful. I am concerned about those who aren't. Yesterday I saw a group of students partying together on a lawn in**

**Fredonia. I'll be honest; I was angry, and I pulled over and let them know it.**

**I wanted to convey the importance of social distancing in human terms, using my family as an example. When I saw those students, I worried about my parents, who live a mile away. I worried about my 4-year-old son, who has Down syndrome and thus narrow respiratory passages. I worried about my wife, a nurse at Brooks. If those students get sick, or if they get others sick, she will care for them, and potentially get sick herself and bring the virus home to our son."**

**During these difficult times, everyone needs the support of others more than ever. However, keeping your social network close while maintaining the safe distancing necessary to slow the spread of the virus is important not just for you, but for others as well. Your actions do make a difference!**

**Campus Construction Projects.** Per the latest directive from Governor Cuomo, all campus construction projects, including Houghton Hall, will be temporarily suspended. Contractors are allowed to remain on-site for a few days to ensure the building and all supplies are secured prior to stopping work.

**Pass/Fail Option.** Due to the difficulties some students are experiencing this semester, the Academic Affairs division is making provisions to allow students to select the pass/fail option for any class up to the end of the semester. This option, which can be selected by each student individually for each of their classes, will occur only if formally requested by the student; otherwise, letter grades will be assigned. More details about this option will be sent soon from Academic Affairs via email.

**Student Emergency Relief Fund.** This fund, initiated by faculty and staff, has been established to assist students financially and is intended to alleviate hardship related to moving to a digital education format. If you need emergency assistance, apply on-line via this link:

[https://give-to-fredonia.formstack.com/forms/relief\\_request](https://give-to-fredonia.formstack.com/forms/relief_request)

**I hope your conversion to distance education is going smoothly. If you are experiencing difficulties, please reach out and let us know. We definitely want to assist you in keeping your educational progress on track.**

**Have a good week, and please stay safe!**

**Sincerely,**

**Dennis L. Hefner, Ph.D.  
Interim President**