



BENNINGTON COLLEGE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 6, 2020

Save the Date for the Bennington College Class of 2020 Virtual Commencement May 29-30, 2020

For all that this class has accomplished—and under the most trying of circumstances in these final months—we are celebrating the Bennington College Class of 2020 twice, beginning with a Virtual Commencement Ceremony at the end of this month.

We will join with the class of 2020 in the first-ever Bennington College Virtual Commencement to mark the momentous occasion of graduation on Friday, May 29, and Saturday, May 30. Extraordinary circumstances may prevent us from gathering in person, but they cannot keep us from honoring student achievements or feting this class in style.

As for the specific start times, we asked students to hold to the original plan of 7:00 pm on Friday and 10:00 am on Saturday; they have asked us to review the timing—in light of their multiple current time zones—and we are doing so. We will have a final time in the coming days.

The virtual ceremony will feature nearly all of the components of our traditional commencement, including the reading of names, student and faculty speakers, and more, though parts will be reimagined to suit the new medium. Most importantly, it will be an opportunity for students to joyously commemorate graduation with their families, friends, and all of you.

To make this event truly special, we need just a few things from you, all of which can be submitted through these forms. Here are the details:

- If you would like to, please [record a quick congratulatory message](#) to graduates and send it to us by May 11, 2020. These messages will be a surprise for the graduates, and will be featured in the virtual Commencement program.
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- Be sure to [send us any noteworthy final projects](#) for possible inclusion in the Digital Senior Week Gallery, Virtual Commencement, or other College communications.
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- We have asked graduates to name faculty and staff members with whom they are close. This is part of a **surprise** for students in the Virtual Commencement program. If you have been identified, you will be asked to record yourself reading the student's name for the Conferring of Degrees portion of the ceremony. We will send you more details soon on how to proceed, so **please keep an eye out for emails from the Provost and Dean's Office**, and help us keep this effort a secret for our graduates!

The deadline to [submit](#) your congratulatory video is Monday, May 11, 2020. Noteworthy final projects can be [submitted](#) through May 22.

Because we know that there is no substitute for coming together in person, we will also be honoring the class of 2020 as part of next year's commencement celebration. As we shared recently, plans for that event are still in development, and you will hear more from us in the fall.

Like all of you, I wish we could mark this occasion in-person on campus, but that day will have to wait. This Virtual Commencement will have behind it all the love, reverence, and enthusiasm that the Class of 2020 deserves. Most importantly, it will have all of you—the faculty and staff members who made this achievement possible for another class of Bennington graduates. This year more than ever, your hard work has been critical to their success and our success as a community.

You will hear more from us in the coming weeks about details and instructions on how to participate. So mark your calendar for May 29-30, and [submit your congratulations](#). I can't wait to celebrate with you.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabel Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Isabel Roche