

Senior Week 2020

Dear students, faculty, and staff:

This is the time of year when, under normal circumstances, we come together on campus to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and the work we make together. This term has been unlike anything that came before it. And yet, in the face of so many obstacles, Bennington students have found creative new ways to do what they always do: produce original work that showcases the culmination of their individual and also collective pursuits. This year's Senior Week is a celebration of more than just our students' intellectual growth; it is also a celebration of the resilience, strength, and drive to create that the world needs more than ever. We can—should—be proud of what we've done together this term.

Senior Week begins Thursday, May 21 and continues through next week. You can find details on all of the events, with links and instructions on how to participate, on the [Event Calendar](#). (If there's anything we're missing, please let us know: you can [submit events](#) that are yet to happen and [share any noteworthy final projects](#) for possible inclusion in the Digital Senior Week Gallery, Virtual Commencement, or other College communications). Although we cannot be together in-person, Bennington students and faculty have made brilliant use of virtual platforms through a host of exciting events for this year's senior week, including: an [Animation Showing](#) and an audio-visual presentation on [Making the Third Ear](#); a [SoundCloud Showcase](#) from the Music Composition Intensive; a multi-genre piano recital; a [Transformative Voice Listening Event](#); and our annual [Toast and Live Event](#) for students who produced senior theses and projects.

And, of course, we will all come together again on Friday May 29 and 30 for the first of two commencement celebrations for the Class of 2020: the [Bennington College Virtual Commencement Ceremony](#). Friday evening will feature addresses from Deja' Haley '20 and Nigel Poor '86; and the traditional conferring of degrees ceremony will take place on Saturday, along with an address from faculty speaker Phillip B. Williams.

The work we do here at Bennington is a product of not only rigorous individual pursuits, but also collaboration and the serendipitous discovery that occurs when people of varying perspectives come together to make something entirely new. We cannot be with each other in person this year, but that spirit of community is as strong as ever—it is a part of all of us separately and together and becomes visible when we share in our achievements. We hope you will take some time in the coming week to step back and celebrate the incredible work you have made together.

With gratitude,

John Bullock
Acting Provost and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Oceana Wilson
Acting Dean of the College and Dean of the Library