

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX

Remaining 2020 In-Person Commencements Cancelled; More Virtual Commencements Being Planned

May 22, 2020

Dear Students,

Celebrating commencement is among our greatest honors and something we look forward to every year. We will fulfill that goal again this year, but it will be in a different way due to the pandemic.

Exercising an abundance of caution for the health of our students and their families, it is with a very heavy heart that I am announcing the cancellation of **all remaining in-person** commencements for 2020. This will include those planned for the communities of Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Hawaii, Orlando, Phoenix, Sacramento, Southern California and Washington D.C.

Federal and state health officials across the country continue to enforce social distancing rules and, consequently, many large gatherings have been cancelled, including sporting events, conferences, festivals and other in-person commencements. Our commencements attract 5,000-10,000 people and, thus, are much like large sporting events with the same risks. It appears COVID-19 will be with us much longer than any of us had hoped and we must be safe, careful and prudent in our actions.

That said, we **WILL** hold more virtual commencements. We held our first-ever last night, May 21, and it was an incredible success! Here is a link to the ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/UniversityofPhoenix>. We will announce soon, via email and social media, when the next virtual commencement will occur.

We are incredibly proud of our graduates and commencement is an opportunity to celebrate your achievements, which is why we made this decision only after careful consideration of the potential risk to you and your loved ones. As the pandemic continues to progress, please monitor the special microsite we've created to keep you abreast of our actions in response to the pandemic at www.phoenix.edu/COVID19.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email us at uopxcommencement@phoenix.edu.

Thank you, stay healthy and be safe.

Best wishes,

John Woods, Ph.D.
Provost and Chief Academic Officer