

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

“For everything you have missed, you have gained something else.” Ralph Waldo Emerson’s wisdom can be applied to spring Graduation Celebrations 2020. In order to honor all of our graduates, we have declared next week as “Graduation Week at Midwestern University”, beginning on Monday, May 18, 2020 and culminating with the posting of the virtual graduations on Friday, May 22, 2020. Each day we will honor our graduates through social media postings, newspaper congratulatory announcements, communication from the college’s administration and our faculty, staff and alumni. College Facebook pages will be launched next Monday to provide a vehicle for our graduates to post pictures of their years at Midwestern. Pictures of classmates, colleagues and faculty will be shared with each other as we build meaningful scrapbooks to supplement yearbooks and personal picture collections.

The virtual commencement videos are professionally produced through hours of hard work on the part of our academic deans and many staff members. Our Information Technology Services, Media Resources and Communications Departments have gone to great lengths to present a complete and meaningful commencement ceremony to be shared with family and friends, whenever you can gather together during the last few weeks of May. We are hopeful that as you are hooded and presented your diploma from a loved one, you will post a picture of that significant moment to your class Facebook page.

The disappointment of not holding a traditional, on campus graduation is equally shared by our community; faculty, staff, students and their families. Deep down, many of us know that this is our only option at this time, as we are all sacrificing this significant ceremony for the health and well-being of others. It is my hope that we can invite graduates back to campus to celebrate their accomplishments, new positions, residency programs and careers when it is deemed safe to travel and hold large gatherings.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today to discuss the plans to honor and thank our graduates. The entire Team joins me in sharing their heartfelt appreciation to each student as you have positively impacted the colleges and entire university. Graduates, you are respected and honored.

Graduation represents the culmination of the end of one journey; years of experiences, impressions, treasured times, encouraging words from faculty and staff, friendships and special accomplishments. These wonderful memories will never be lost, but what we have gained through this pandemic is the appreciation of what we do have and each other. May our graduates always fondly remember their journey at Midwestern University with joy and pride.

My best wishes to all for a wonderful weekend.

Be well.

Dr. G.