

Dear Moraine Park students, employees and community partners,

Over the last few weeks, the College has been monitoring state and national guidelines around the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety of gathering for our 2020 commencement ceremony.

A few weeks ago, the College announced an alternative date for this year's commencement celebration with a disclaimer that if social distancing requirements were still in effect, the event would be canceled. Today, the COVID-19 situation remains very fluid. Gov. Tony Evers recently extended the Safer at Home order and announced the Badger Bounce Back requirements for reopening the state. As a result, we will not be able to celebrate together on June 27, and it is with sincere sadness that **we announce the cancellation of Moraine Park's 2020 commencement ceremony.**

We had the highest hopes to hold a ceremony this year. However, the safety of our students, employees, and communities is of the utmost importance to us. With so many unknowns and safety at the forefront, this is just the right thing to do.

Our graduates were notified of this decision today with a personal video message from me. In late June, they will be receiving a package in the mail from the College, recognizing their accomplishments. Additionally, the graduates from the class of 2020 have been invited to participate in our 2021 commencement ceremony, so they can be recognized and celebrated in a way that signifies this momentous achievement.

This announcement is by far the hardest one I have had to make in my tenure at the College, and my heart goes out to our graduates and to everyone who must miss significant life events. Stay safe, and please join me in welcoming the class of 2020 to the Moraine Park Alumni family.

-Bonnie