

March 23, 2020

To the University Community:

Like many of you, I look forward to our University's commencement ceremonies more than any other campus event. Seeing the smiles on our graduates' faces and shaking their hands as they walk across the stage is a unique and special time as we celebrate the achievement of one of life's major milestones: earning a university degree.

Today I made the difficult decision to postpone SRU's spring commencement ceremonies, scheduled for May 8-9. The move is part of SRU's ongoing effort to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Everyone at SRU understands what commencement means to our graduating students as well as their proud families and friends. But many health experts are predicting that we could be in for an extended period of disruption, and, as disappointing as it is to tell our students that celebrating their accomplishments has been put on hold, it is in the interest of everyone's health and safety that we have made this decision.

We've reached the point on the calendar when families and friends would normally begin to make plans to be in Slippery Rock to join their graduates, so it was important for us to deliver this news now.

When the national health situation allows it, we will recognize our spring 2020 graduates, in person, at a time when it is again safe to bring large groups of people together.

I want to assure all of our undergraduate and graduate students who are eligible to graduate in May, that despite the postponement of our ceremonies, you will receive your diplomas through the mail. You have earned that right and at some point, in the near future, it will be my honor and pleasure to congratulate you in person.

For the time being, we will continue to remind everyone about the importance of staying safe and healthy, adhering to all guidance about social distancing, and to continue to support one another during this difficult time.

Yours,

William J. Behre, Ph.D.
President