

May 8, 2020

To the University Community:

Congratulations, everyone. The end of the semester has arrived. And what a semester it has been! Whether it was the unexpected extension of spring break, the abrupt conversion to distance learning or stay-home-orders, the coronavirus pandemic was a challenge unlike anything our University community has ever faced.

But through it all, our students, faculty and staff showed incredible resolve as they rose to the occasion. I remain extraordinarily proud of how members of this community stepped up for one another, reached out to each other and shared their time and talents in an effort to keep our University moving forward. It truly is inspiring to see what our community can do in the face of adversity. Thank you.

Despite the difficulties we've collectively faced, we have much to celebrate this weekend as another group of students conclude their educational pursuits, even if that conclusion is not what we envisioned when the semester began. To those graduating students, we wish you the best as you march confidently into the future.

But before we officially say "goodbye" to the semester and our graduates, I'd like to remind our students that the Office of the Provost is conducting a brief survey that requires your assistance. The survey is designed to capture student experiences with the technological aspects of their courses after their conversion from face-to-face to online instruction. The answers will help the University to better understand what works in these types of situations should there be a need in the future. The survey is available via each student's D2L homepage, will take less than 10 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous. The deadline for participating in the survey is May 10.

To our graduates, while the University remains committed to a face-to-face ceremony for you in the future, I'd like to remind everyone that we will be honoring our spring graduates virtually at 8 p.m., May 8, and 10 a.m., May 9, via two video segments on the University website and social media channels.

This evening we will share a short congratulatory video, while tomorrow morning we will observe the accomplishments of our graduates in a piece featuring commentary from me; Jerry Chmielewski, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs; and Kelly Bailey, director of alumni engagement, as well as the names of each graduate.

Both videos will be posted to the University's [Facebook page](#), the [SRUofPA Twitter feed](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

I wish everyone a happy and healthy weekend and, as always, GO ROCK!

Best,

William J. Behre
President