



Hello CU Denver Lynx,

This year is like nothing we've seen before. The pandemic is creating hardship and loss for communities and families. We have all had to figure out new ways to do things that were second nature, like attending classes, seeking help from professors, and being with with our friends and family.

And yet, in my short time as chancellor, I've been amazed by this community's collective resilience and collaboration. Everyone has played a part in keeping this campus safe – by wearing your face coverings, not having large gatherings, and keeping socially distant. Thank you. It hasn't been easy, and there are many things we miss. But we are all doing our part to keep each other safe and we need to continue making good choices to beat this virus – not the other way around.

Today, I want to tell you – my fellow Lynx – about a very difficult decision we've had to make to ensure our continued success in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

With deepest regret, I share the news that our 2020 Fall Commencement will not take place in person on December 12th, and we will instead be celebrating our graduates virtually.

I know this decision is very disappointing for you and your families. You worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone, and you deserve to be celebrated with your professors, friends, families, and other loved ones.

But the health and well-being of our community must remain our highest priority. We need commencement to be safe—for you, our graduates; the hundreds of employees who make the ceremony happen; and the thousands of family members and friends who join us to celebrate.

It's important to make this decision now -- so you know what to expect and so family members who had been wanting to make travel arrangements can plan.

We are still going to celebrate the class of 2020, with a virtual commencement that will include personalized recognition of each graduate and reading of your names. You will be able to submit your own photos and expressions of gratitude to be displayed during the celebration. If you'd like, regalia will be available to rent for your personal photos. Additionally, we will be shipping virtual ceremony participants a "celebration kit" with some fun items to commemorate your achievement.

We also invite you to participate in a future on-campus ceremony as soon as we can safely conduct one.

Graduating from college is a huge accomplishment under the best of circumstances. Even more so for you, the class of 2020: a unique and resilient group among the CU Denver community that is strong, agile, and enduring. I'm very much looking forward to the day when we can welcome you back to campus and celebrate with you in person. You deserve this and so much more.