

Dear Prospective 2020 Graduates,

As we continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19, we have weighed our options for the May Commencement ceremony. In the light of the likelihood that the restrictions on public gatherings may continue for up to eight weeks, we have decided to cancel May Commencement activities. This includes Conviviality, the Vespers service and Commencement dinner on May 16 and the Commencement ceremony on May 17.

The Commencement ceremony will be postponed to a later time. When we have more information about the specifics of the ceremony, we will be in touch with you to share those details. We will still award degrees for graduates in May. We will mail out diplomas and announce awards once the Spring term has ended.

We hope that this proactive cancellation will help alleviate any costs involved with canceling travel and lodging arrangements for Commencement weekend. If there is a need to provide confirmation to a vendor that our Commencement ceremony has been cancelled, we can make it available. If this is the case, please contact Kay Watson (kwatson@meadville.edu).

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to determine the best response to this rapidly changing situation. The Commencement ceremony is an important ritual moment at the close of your studies. The Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff deeply regret losing the opportunity to celebrate with you in May. However, we look forward to a delayed celebration, to be scheduled at such time that it will no longer be an unsafe risk for our community.

Please know that although we will not be able to gather to celebrate Commencement in May, the Meadville Lombard Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff congratulate you on your achievements and honor the work you have done to reach this point in your studies.

We will be in touch further as we have more information to share about Commencement activities. We wish you and your loved ones well in this time of collective crisis and collective responsibility.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Lightsey', with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Pamela Lightsey, VP of Academic and Student Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Jimenez', with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Elena Jimenez, Registrar