
Subject: A Special Update from President Lugo

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 2:34:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: President Lugo

To: All-faculty-staff, AllStudents

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Families,

Earlier today I emailed our Queens 2020 graduate candidates to let them know that we are committed to inviting them back to campus to celebrate commencement at some point but we will have to postpone our Saturday, May 2nd ceremony. As I'm sure many know and are closely following, the latest CDC guidelines prevent us from holding our ceremony at that time. But it is our commitment to our graduates that an in-person commencement will happen. I know you join me in holding onto the promise of seeing our students and giving them the hard-earned opportunity to be fully recognized for their academic achievements and careers. We all desire that moment of celebration for our 2020 graduates.

During these unimaginable times, our Queens community gives me so many reasons for gratitude. I'm thankful for our students and families who followed our recommendations and expeditiously made our campus safer. You did this despite the hardships that surely came with the sudden news. I'm so appreciative of the faculty who overcame incredible challenges and learning curves to virtualize their classes in a matter of days. This was a heroic effort. I am grateful for our staff who are diligently and creatively finding new ways to help current and prospective students. You have all been patient, collaborative and supportive of each other. All of this is merely confirmation of what I suspected all along - the strength of our community is our people. Our culture of service to each other and our greater communities is at the heart of who we are at Queens.

We are in the process of adjusting to our new normal, at least for now. Classes are occurring online. Meetings are virtual. And many folks are adapting to work from home – all while balancing the personal challenges related to this crisis. Meanwhile, our campus has an unsettling quiet about it – missing the familiar laughter, shouts and energy on the quad.

We will continue to operate with minimal folks on campus, virtual meetings and no events through May 4 as the CDC instructs, at least until further notice.

As always, I am grateful to receive your questions and comments by replying to this email. We will continue to update you via email and our dedicated webpage.

Until Next Time,

President Lugo