April 17, 2020

To the graduating class of Spring 2020:

So far, over 1,000 students have petitioned to be a part of Gavilan College's 100th graduating class. It is a momentous event for each one of you personally, for the faculty and staff who are part of your journey, and for the institution as a whole. As Gavilan's Superintendent/President, there is nothing I look forward to more than the opportunity, every year, to celebrate these accomplishments: the degrees and certificates you have earned in many different fields, and special honors for many that have been earned with distinction while at our college. One of the greatest honors for me is knowing that so many of you will be the first in your families to cross the stage and graduate from college. Each year, our graduates inspire us all and motivate us to achieve more at Gavilan College.

This Spring, we are living though an historic time, as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us into Social Distancing and Sheltering-In-Place. It is with great disappointment that I tell you that the large, outdoor 100th annual commencement ceremony we had planned to hold on May 22 to celebrate the class of 2020 and the conclusion of our Centennial Year cannot happen.

However, rest assured that we will not allow your graduation to pass without ceremony. Your student leaders polled the student body last week, and the results showed a clear preference for delaying commencement until it can be held in person, rather than holding a virtual ceremony on May 22. It is my promise to you, that we WILL host your graduation ceremony on the Gavilan College campus, and you will have the opportunity to cross the stage, receive your diploma, and mark this milestone with friends and family. We will preliminarily schedule a series of events by department to occur in December 2020, during the timeframe December 19-21. The Registered Nurses will be additionally be honored with a virtual pinning ceremony on May 16, 2020, as we know they will be called to service immediately. Details on both events will be shared with you in the weeks ahead.

I am so proud of you, class of 2020! Your persistence, your drive, your motivation to succeed no matter the odds. You are facing challenges no graduating class has faced before. The Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and I cannot wait to celebrate with you when we can all be together again.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Rose, Ed.D.
Superintendent / President

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