

Fw: Important Announcement about Commencement

Mon 3/8/2021 1:42 PM

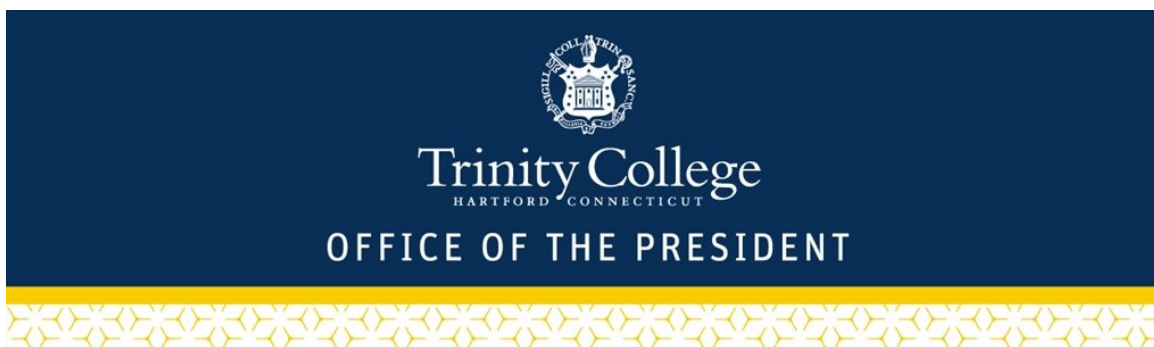
To:

From: President Joanne Berger-Sweeney <president@trincoll.edu>

Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 12:35 PM

To:

Subject: Important Announcement about Commencement



Dear

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Just over a year ago the Class of 2020 experienced a significant disruption to a milestone moment in your lives: Senior Week and Commencement. Despite not being able to celebrate your academic achievements in our cherished Trinity tradition, 'Neath the Elms, you have earned your place among a long and honored family of Bantams.

We are at an inflection point in responding to the pandemic. As the prospect of brighter days lie ahead we continue to adapt to living and learning during a pandemic, practicing the necessary health safety protocols that keep our campus community safe. It's an extraordinary effort on the part of everyone.

Today I informed the Class of 2021 that we have begun planning for an in-person, albeit modified, Commencement ceremony in May. You can read that letter [here](#). I expect that some of you may reasonably ask why we can't do the same for you. The prime reason is that our current students continue to participate in comprehensive, on-campus testing and safety protocols leading up to and through Commencement; we cannot guarantee those same conditions for those of you who have graduated.

One of my greatest disappointments last year was to not be able to hold an in-person Commencement ceremony and all the celebratory events that traditionally lead up to it during Senior Week. Commencement is that annual reminder for me of our shared experiences on this beautiful campus, and I love to see the joy and painful farewells on the faces of Trinity community members

at that time. But my commitment is that we will find ways to celebrate the extraordinary Class of 2020 and honor your accomplishments in-person, when it is safe to do so.

We have discussed the possibilities of an in-person celebration in the summer of '22 or during the college's Bicentennial celebration in 2023. Soon, we will survey your entire Class to gather your suggestions.

We have also made the difficult decision to not hold in-person Reunions on campus this June and communicated that today to all those alumni who were to celebrate their Reunions, last year and this year. You can find that letter [here](#).

I want to thank you for your continued understanding and support during what has been a very challenging period for your Class in particular; I recognize that many of you have lost more than just an in-person commencement. Your resilience makes you truly extraordinary. It is with hope that I am eager for the world to open up again so I can see many of you personally, both on campus and around the world.

Sincerely,

Joanne Berger-Sweeney
President and Trinity College Professor of Neuroscience

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