I know that I speak for everyone at Helena College when I tell you how proud we are of how you have handled these changes. We know that this has not been an easy semester and we are impressed with the way you have adapted to a new way of learning and the dedication you have shown to your academic work.

The question of Commencement has been on all of our minds. Based on the current situation, and what the nation is predicting come early May, the Commissioner of Higher Education, after close consultation with the Board of Regents, has cancelled all in-person Spring 2020 Commencement events for the Montana University System.

We share this directive with great sadness. Commencement is a right-of-passage for our graduates as well as their families, friends, and others who have supported them. It is a ritual, a celebration of achievement and of the hope and opportunities that lie ahead. And we want to celebrate that achievement with you in person. For this reason, Helena College will be holding our Commencement ceremony in fall of 2020.

We will announce a new date for the 2020 Commencement as soon as the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic allows it.

Additionally, we will be working with ASHC to gather information from the graduating class as we plan the fall event and explore ways to celebrate the end of the spring semester and the completion of your Helena College coursework.

Again, words cannot express how proud we are of your hard work and we are anxious to celebrate your achievement.