



AUSTIN  
COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 15, 2020

To the Class of 2020:

Sadly, I'm writing today to notify you of the postponement of Austin College's 2020 Commencement celebration and exercises scheduled for August 8 and 9. This decision was made after extensive deliberation of senior leadership and our diligent monitoring of public health data and recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. I know you are disappointed; we are disappointed for you. We are very proud of the Class of 2020 and sincerely looked forward to celebrating your achievements in person next month. However, mandated restrictions about group gathering sizes and, most importantly, concern about the health and safety of our graduates, their families, and our campus community make the Commencement weekend in August neither feasible nor wise.

Though we still hope to reschedule this important milestone to a time when we can celebrate safely, diplomas will be mailed directly to graduates in the coming weeks.

In order to inform our plans for ways to honor the Class of 2020 in the future, please respond to the following:

**Survey:** *[Class of 2020 only]*

Please rank the following statements in order of preference (1 = highest preference, 3 = lowest preference)

- I would prefer to attend rescheduled Commencement exercises in December 2020.
- I would prefer to attend rescheduled Commencement exercises in May 2021, in conjunction with Class of 2021 Commencement.
- I am not interested in attending rescheduled Commencement exercises.

Thank you for understanding this disappointing news. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you good health.

Sincerely,

President O'Day