



Members of the Institutional Advancement Division joined other staff members returning to on-campus work on July 6. Along with wearing masks in all buildings and outside when social distancing is not possible, staff members do daily health self-assessments and follow safety protocols for health and cleanliness while on campus. Faculty and staff continue to prepare for the return of students to campus in August.



Commencement Celebration Postponed

After extensive deliberation and diligent monitoring of public health data and recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, President Steven P. O'Day and senior leadership made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Austin College Commencement celebration and exercises that were scheduled for August 8 and 9. In an email to the graduates, Mr. O'Day wrote, "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 or wise." The newest alumni have been asked to answer a survey regarding rescheduling the ceremony, and diplomas will be mailed directly to graduates in the coming weeks.

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FAQ Updated for Fall Term 2020

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Read more about Austin College Fall Term 2020 and plans to return to campus. Updates will be added regularly. Please direct inquiries to vicepresident@austincollege.edu.

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Inclusion & Diversity Committee Invites You to Join the Conversation

The Austin College Inclusion and Diversity Committee offers two ways for all members of the Austin College community to add to the discussion of eliminating racial inequalities and fostering justice.

1. Attend the Virtual Town Hall meeting via Zoom. This Town Hall will be an opportunity for members of the Austin College community to share their perspectives with President Steven O'Day, the I & D Committee, and others in attendance.

Please register below to receive a link for the virtual meeting. Professor of Psychology and Co-Chair of the committee Dr. Lisa M. Brown will moderate this session, and members of the committee will help to ensure attendees have a chance to speak. Toward that end, time limits will be set for individual comments.

**Monday, July 20, 2020
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. CDT**

[Register here to receive the Zoom link](#)

2. Send your actionable ideas via the survey. In a letter to the Austin College community, President O'Day recently wrote, "With this moment of opportunity before us, I have charged the President's Committee on Inclusion and Diversity to gather ideas from all members of the Austin College community on actionable steps to help make justice and opportunity a reality for all—here and everywhere." This call to action requires suggestions that are workable and effective.

Write your thoughts and ideas about changes in organizational structure, policy, and/or practices that may reduce inequities and promote inclusion. The online input form is open through August 1.

[Complete the Survey](#)



'Roo Ambassadors Accepted Into Exchange and Teaching Program

Austin College 2020 graduates Bridget Tolle of Oklahoma City and Paola Matus of Sherman have been accepted to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program for the 2020-2021 academic year.

They will serve as Assistant Language Teachers, teaching English to Japanese high school, middle school, or elementary school students. The competitive teaching exchange program is managed by the government of Japan. Though COVID-19 may delay the program's start, the women are scheduled to travel to Tokyo, Japan, in September for a few days of training before moving to their teaching locations.

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Faculty Members Honor Colleagues with Division Awards

Every year, the Austin College faculty recognizes divisional colleagues for excellence in areas of scholarship, teaching, and service. This year, each division added a fourth award and could offer two awards in one area or create a new area of recognition. Faculty members from each division select the annual awardees. Winners from the previous year announced the 2020 awards at the end-of-year faculty meeting.

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Savage Is Contender for SCAC Woman of the Year

Austin College women's basketball player Ann Savage has been named a SCAC Woman of the Year Award finalist. Seven women vie for the title. Savage, who earned her Master of Arts in Teaching degree this spring, earned All-SCAC honors through four years of play with the 'Roos.

She graduated in 2019 as a mathematics major with a grade-point-average of 3.96 on her way to earning the SCAC Elite 19 Award twice, first as a senior in 2019 and again this spring during her graduate year.



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