Date:
March 24, 2020

From:
Dean Barbara L. Bass, MD
Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences
CEO, The GW Medical Faculty Associates

Dear SMHS Students,

As you have already learned, per the message from GW President Thomas LeBlanc sent out yesterday, the university has made the decision to cancel this year’s graduation on the National Mall due to the covid-19 pandemic. Like most other schools, we’ve also decided to cancel the diploma ceremonies for all of our programs, in the best interest of your health and the health of your families. I know this is disappointing news, but please understand that health and safety is our highest priority. We are committed to finding alternative ways to celebrate your incredible accomplishments.

As soon as we learned this news, the associate deans and I began the process of thinking about creative, memorable, and gratifying ways to properly celebrate your work, your attainment of this important milestone, and your future. We will be collaborating with your class leaders, so that together we can create a moment for reflection and celebration.

This should be a joyous time of celebration as we look to the future with excitement, however, we are living through a challenging health care crisis that is certain to become a lasting memory in world history. That said, as future health care leaders, now is the time that our passion to improve the lives of those we serve is more important than ever and being called into action. All of us are thrilled that you are joining us as caregivers and as colleagues, as we work to deliver the highest quality of care to each patient who walks into our clinics, emergency departments, and operating rooms.

Be proud of your accomplishments, be mindful that you are part of an exceptional time in history, and be well.

With my best wishes,

Dean Barbara L. Bass, MD