



## Commencement Update Re: COVID-19 from the President

March 30, 2020, 10:01 a.m., Office of the President, Updates on COVID-19

Dear Tiger Family,

These last several weeks have been filled with unanticipated challenges and unavoidable change. Thank you for your patience as we navigated the closure of the campus and the transition to online learning. On behalf of your professors, staff and the entire Benedict College family, we applaud your strength and resilience during this difficult time. We genuinely appreciate your cooperation.

To the Class of 2020, we know that the changes brought about by the global pandemic (COVID-19 – Corona Virus), have been especially difficult. I know that commencement is the moment you have been waiting for since your arrival on Benedict's campus. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I write today to share the difficult news that the **Commencement ceremony originally scheduled for May 9, 2020 has been postponed to Saturday, August 8, 2020.** Given the many the precautions that the city, the state and the country are taking, based on information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), it is my hope that this delay will afford ample time to get beyond this public health crisis and ensure the safety of all of our students, faculty, staff and families. While we are disappointed about the delay, I am hopeful that the new date will afford your families and opportunity to make travel plans and that the Commencement will occur prior to the start of graduate school etc. for all of our graduates.

For those who have satisfied all graduation requirements and need to have their degrees certified prior to August 8, 2020 to satisfy employment or graduate school admissions, please rest assured that the commencement ceremony date will not arbitrarily delay the conferral of your degrees. We are available to answer any questions you may have as we continue to navigate the next several months.

In the meantime, each of you is in my thoughts and prayers. Let's finish strong as #TheBESTofBC!

**Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis**

**President & CEO – Benedict College**

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