

June 11, 2020

Dear Unity College,

Since our earlier announcement regarding the postponement of our May Commencement Ceremony, we have been monitoring COVID-19 developments. Key elements we have considered are Governor Mills' recommendations regarding when large groups can safely gather again and quarantine precautions. My hope was that by August 1, we could hold a Commencement ceremony where family and friends could gather to celebrate the accomplishments of Unity College's Class of 2020. However, it is with a heavy heart that, based on the guidance from local and federal health experts, we have to cancel the August event.

Though I know many of you watched our virtual recognition in May along with your family and friends, it is certainly no replacement for an in-person commencement. While this is disappointing news for many of us, it is the right decision to protect the safety of our graduates, families, and employees, who would be coming from all over the country for this celebration. Mindful of the current COVID situation, we invite and encourage you to celebrate in-person at our Commencement ceremony on December 18, 2020. On a bright note, Danni Washington, our speaker who was scheduled for August, has agreed to instead deliver her address in December.

Once again, I promise that we will continue to appraise the viability of this gathering in the months ahead. To best assist you with your planning we will announce any changes to this date by November 1. As I have stated previously, every graduate who was planning to march at May Commencement is invited to take part in December's event, and we hope to see you, and our soon to be newer graduates there too.

Until then, I encourage you to support each other through these unprecedented, tumultuous and painful time in our nation. Reach out to the classmates, faculty, and staff who helped you achieve this milestone in your life, and stay connected with Unity College. If you haven't already received your diploma in the mail, or awards you earned, you should receive those soon. We will also mail out regalia to you in the coming weeks.

I hope that you and your families stay safe and I look forward to the time when I may personally confer your degrees and recognize your achievement.

In Unity,

**Dr. Melik Peter Khoury**  
President, Unity College