



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

### **TSU Spring 2020 Graduates:**

The entire TSU community has been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic that has disrupted our Spring semester. After careful deliberation, University leadership made the difficult decision to postpone the Spring 2020 Commencement ceremony scheduled for May 9.

We understand the importance of Commencement - and how much it means to you and your family. Your years of academic hard work and personal sacrifice have not gone unnoticed. Celebrating your accomplishments in a manner that is safe for all is our top priority.

We know you have questions about how your graduation is affected by all of this. Please see below some updated information on a tentatively scheduled future ceremony, a commemorative online presentation, and some frequently asked questions regarding graduation. Keep in mind that things may change as TSU continues to follow national, state and local orders and guidelines. Again, everything will be based on maintaining the health and safety of the entire TSU family.

### **Will there be a re-scheduled Commencement ceremony?**

Tentatively, we are scheduling **Saturday, August 8, 2020**, as a replacement date for the May 9 ceremony. This would take place in the H&PE Arena. However, we will monitor and adhere to all local, state and national orders that may impact if (and how) this ceremony can take place. There will likely be limitations on the number of attendees at this re-scheduled ceremony. The logistics are still to be determined, and we will keep you informed as the situation develops. If the August date becomes unrealistic, the next alternative date would be TSU's traditional Winter Commencement ceremony in December 2020.

### **Is the University doing anything to recognize graduates on May 9?**

Yes, we will have a commemorative video/presentation that honors our Spring 2020 graduates. This is NOT a virtual graduation, however. It will have messages from the Interim President, the Provost, and the Deans of each TSU college/school. The names of the graduates will appear on a scroll during the video. You will be able to access the video from the TSU home page on May 9, as well as via our social media channels – YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### **When will I get my diploma?**

Just because you aren't *physically* graduating on May 9 doesn't mean that you won't be *officially* graduating from TSU. Your diploma, which will be mailed to you, will still reflect the May 9 date. Your TSU transcript, which is the *official* confirmation of your degree, will be

available after degrees are posted. The process of conferring your degree is not impacted by the ceremony being postponed.

### **What if I ordered my cap & gown?**

If you've already ordered your cap & gown, then you will be able to pick it up from the TSU bookstore once it re-opens. If you haven't yet ordered a cap & gown, we suggest that you wait until later in the summer before doing so. By that time, we should have a good indication if the August 8 ceremony will take place. More information about cap & gown rental or purchase can be found at <http://www.tsu.edu/commencement/information-for-graduates>. After April 30, you can contact the TSU Bookstore at 713.313.7030.

We are proud of all our Tiger graduates. We admire your perseverance throughout your time at TSU – but especially during this most challenging Spring semester. You have made us all #TSU Proud as you complete your well-deserved degree!

Go Tigers!