

December 4, 2020

To: Students signed up for Dec. 2020 graduation

SUBJECT LINE: Additional information regarding virtual commencement on Dec 19

December Class of 2020 -

A short time ago you received an announcement from President Lowry about the decision to host the virtual December graduation ceremonies. While we are disappointed that circumstances surrounding the continued global pandemic have interfered with our plans for an in-person ceremony, it is very important to us to have a meaningful graduation season filled with celebration. Regardless of whether we celebrate in-person or virtually, this is a day that we celebrate **TOGETHER**. This day is the highlight of our fall semester and we are committed to celebrating the magnitude of this occasion, reading every graduate's name with honor and pride, and recognizing the significance of this day for each individual. In this note, we will highlight for you some of the exciting plans we are making to celebrate your accomplishments!

We recognize how important this moment is to you and your family — and it's very important to us as well as we look forward to celebrating our graduates each year. The December commencement ceremony will be broadcast live on **December 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. CST**. The program will be live streamed at lipscomb.edu/live and will be available for later viewing on Lipscomb's [YouTube channel](#). As is customary, we will have one commencement ceremony in December for both undergraduate and graduate students. And, we are committed to providing an experience that honors your academic accomplishments! As you and your family and friends make plans to gather for this very important celebration, here are just some of the meaningful and exciting ways that you can expect to be honored in this graduation season.

1. **All graduates will receive a gift box** from the university that includes your diploma as well as other gift items to commemorate your graduation.
2. **Each college will host engaging virtual programs specifically for their graduates.** During these events, you will hear from and visit with some of your major professors who have been so meaningful and journeyed with you in your academic career. Please look for specific information from your college about these events.
3. The commencement ceremony on December 19 will follow the **pomp and circumstance of all previous ceremonies** and will be **hosted live by President Lowry and Provost Bledsoe** with video messages delivered during the ceremony from additional program participants.
4. We encourage you to put on your **cap and gown** and enjoy an exciting time with your friends and family as you **create your own, personal graduation watch party!**
5. Yes, there will be **bagpipes!**
6. **Each graduate's name will be read aloud along with any honors received** so you will have your special time to hear your name and celebrate with your family and friends who have gathered together.

7. **Graduates will be celebrated on Lipscomb University's Instagram and Facebook social media platforms** throughout December. You will receive an email early next week with information about how to **submit photos and other information that we will share with our community** to celebrate this special milestone! Be creative and make your photos as individual as you are! Be sure to watch for **special graduation frames** that will be posted on Facebook so you can celebrate your graduation with your profile pictures. Please plan now to also share with us photos of your graduation watch party on December 19 and use the tag **#LipscombGradDec2020** for all your social media posts!
8. **Each graduate's name will be included in a graduation story** featured at www.lipscomb.edu/news following commencement that will also include highlights of the day's celebration.
9. **The virtual Baccalaureate Service** for the undergraduates will take place on **Friday, December 18**, at 5 p.m. CST and will be live streamed at lipscomb.edu/live and will be available for later viewing on Lipscomb's [YouTube channel](#).

The moment when your particular degree is conferred will never happen again. And, there are few moments in life that evoke the level of emotion that is experienced at commencement. Whether in person or virtual, it is this particular moment when you will become the owner of a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate degree that you have earned. The moment should be experienced, cherished, and celebrated as the transitional and transformative moment it is in your life!

To get to experience this moment in a close, personal setting with the support, pride, and love from the family and friends who will be surrounding you cannot be lessened because of a virtual ceremony. Indeed, being physically close to them as your name is read may be even sweeter than the distance which is between you and them at an on-ground ceremony.

So many things in life can be taken from us, financial independence, health, security; but your earned degree and the knowledge it represents can never be taken from you. It is yours for life; it is a part of you. The permanence of knowledge represented by this occasion is an exciting door that we are honored to walk through with you at commencement!

Please be looking for additional and important communications in the upcoming days from the graduation ceremony team and from your college. And, I look forward to honoring you at the December 19 commencement ceremony!

Thanks,
W. Craig Bledsoe
Provost