



SPECIAL REPORT

VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT IS JUNE 13

CARES ACT RELIEF IS ON THE WAY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

And still we rise with our virtual commencement June 13


This has been an unprecedented academic year. However, Southwest students have risen to the occasion and members of the Class of 2020 have completed requirements for graduation and are prepared for a bright future.

Although the pandemic forced us to postpone this year's event that was to be held at FedExForum May 2, we will celebrate the Class of 2020, nevertheless. And we will do so with an historic ceremony. The College's first-ever virtual commencement is **Saturday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m. via live stream. Access information is forthcoming.**

Celebrating this life-changing accomplishment is our honor and is as important to the College as it is to the graduates and their loved ones. Commencement 2020 will provide yet one more opportunity for Southwest to celebrate the resilience and perseverance of this amazing class!

Virtual Commencement will be as interactive as it is celebratory. All graduates will have a slide displayed during the virtual ceremony that will include their name, degree and any applicable honors.



Dr. Tracy D. Hall
 @Southwestnpres

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Those wishing to have their photograph appear on their slide must submit it by May 15 to the designated Southwest Dropbox folder. There is no need to sign up or sign in. Simply upload your photo and include your full name and its corresponding phonetic spelling, along with a brief message to family, friends, professors or fellow graduates. In addition, to help graduates celebrate in style, the College is holding its first-ever Curbside Cap & Tassel Pick-Up event **Tuesday, May 12** in the Bornblum Library parking lot on the Macon Cove Campus and the Parrish Building parking lot on the Union Avenue Campus. **Both events will be held simultaneously from 9 a.m. – noon.** Graduates may attend either event. Student ID is required to pick up your graduation keepsakes. Social distancing and other safety precautions will be followed.

Graduates: **We invite you to snap a selfie wearing your cap and tassel and upload it by May 18.** In addition, you can make your participation in virtual commencement extra special by uploading a “tassel turn” video! Simply video yourself moving your tassel from right to left to signify that you are now a graduate! Upload the video with your photo. We will feature it in a very special presentation you are sure to enjoy!

Southwest’s virtual commencement celebration will be very interactive with multiple videos to mark the occasion. The celebration will include social media feeds, so be sure to interact with Southwest’s social platforms on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@SouthwestTN) June 13. Don’t forget to share this information with family and friends so they can post well wishes, too!

Again, congratulations to the Class of 2020! I look forward to seeing everyone at Virtual Commencement June 13! Until then, stay safe and be well!

Dr. Tracy D. Hall,
President



**CURBSIDE
CAP & TASSEL
PICK-UP**

Tuesday, May 12
9 a.m. – Noon

**STILL
I
RISE**

You did it!

MACON COVE
Bornblum Library Lot

UNION AVENUE
Parrish Building Lot

SAVE THE DATE: 2020
Virtual Commencement June 13 at 10:30 a.m.





VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT IS JUNE 13

FROM FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Students to receive CARES Act emergency assistance

Southwest Tennessee Community College expects to begin distributing federal emergency financial assistance to students within the next two weeks. The payments are provided under the CARES Act approved by Congress.

The U.S. Department of Education states the funds are intended to help students cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus pandemic, including such cost-of-attendance eligible expenses as course materials, technology, health care and child care. Eligible Southwest students are those who are degree-seeking and were enrolled full- or part-time on or after March 13 for the Spring 2020 semester are eligible.

The following students are NOT eligible to receive funds:

- Students who are not eligible to participate in such Title IV federal aid programs as Pell Grant, federal student loans and other federal financial aid programs;
- Students who initially enrolled exclusively in distance education courses as of March 13, 2020,
- High school dual-enrollment students,
- Non-degree-seeking students, and
- Students who enrolled in special-industry training programs through their employer.

Southwest will disburse 90 percent of the grant funds awarded. The remaining 10 percent of the CARES Act funding will be disbursed as special payments to eligible students who apply for additional emergency assistance. Southwest has been working with the Tennessee Board of Regents system office on determining student eligibility under federal guidelines and setting up the processes for making the payments. Eligible students will receive the payments through checks in the mail. Students who have signed up for Touchnet to have funds directly deposited into their checking account will receive the funds faster. Students with checking accounts may sign up for Touchnet on the College's website.

According to U.S. Department of Education guiding principles, students with "the greatest need" will be given priority while Southwest seeks to ensure funds are distributed as widely as possible. Stay tuned to your email and the COVID-19 section of the College's website for updates on Southwest Tennessee Community College's pandemic response.



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Congrats!

GRADUATES!

Southwest Salutes
the
Class
of 2020
VIRTUAL CEREMONY
Saturday, June 13 • 10:30 A.M.

Curbside Cap & Tassel Pick-Up is May 12!

**Upload Your Commencement Photo and Video
by May 18!**