



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

February 17, 2021

Daemen College  
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Campus Community,

Welcome back to our students and best of luck for the start of the spring semester.

We are pleased to provide everyone with an update on our 2021 commencement ceremonies. As you all are well aware, the 2020 ceremonies were not what anyone had imagined, but, thanks to our talented creative team, we were able to deliver two special virtual ceremonies in lieu of our traditional in-person events at Kleinhans. While this was well-received given the circumstances, the overwhelming desire is to be able to offer in-person ceremonies this year to the students who have persevered to earn their degree.

Knowing that life will not be back to “normal” for quite some time still, we have devised a plan to allow for in-person celebrations of our graduating class of 2021. Last May, we were not prepared to conduct a traditional undergraduate and graduate ceremony, but since that time, Daemen has transformed policies and procedures to conduct safe, in-person events and experiences for students and families. We have the tools and the talent to do that and therefore, we will utilize those to offer our graduating students and their families an in-person graduation.

In order to accomplish in-person ceremonies we needed to re-imagine our traditional commencement and make it work within the boundaries of our current circumstances. Commencement exercises for Spring 2021 will take place Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29. As opposed to doing two ceremonies - undergraduate and graduate - we will conduct six smaller ceremonies. All ceremonies will be held in Lumsden gym with chairs being placed 6 ft. apart and spaces reserved on bleachers for spacing. We will host receptions after each ceremony outside under large tents. Guests will be limited, but we will stream every event live in various locations across campus including the Wick Dining Room, the Wildcat Den, Alumni Lounge and Social Room.

We worked closely with academic affairs and faculty leadership to create the groupings for the six ceremonies. The tentative schedule of events is outlined below; times are still TBD:

**Thursday, May 27**  
ALHANA Ceremony  
Excellence Awards

February 17, 2021  
Page Two

**Friday, May 28**

PA White Coat Ceremony and Commencement (*Graduate*)  
Graduate Student Commencement (*DPT*)  
Graduate Student Commencement (*MSW, MPH, MBA, MS*)

**Saturday, May 29**

Nursing Pinning Ceremony and Commencement (*UG & Graduate*)  
Undergraduate Student Commencement (*English, History & Political Science, Liberal Studies, Modern Languages, Psychological Sciences, Social Work, Visual & Performing Arts*)  
Undergraduate Student Commencement (*Accounting & Information Systems, Business Administration, Education, Health Promotion, Natural Sciences, Paralegal Studies*)

The commencement committee will be meeting frequently over the coming months and will share updates as necessary as this is new and unique commencement planning.

Please be on the lookout for messages from student affairs, the registrar, and other offices as we work to plan this important celebration.

Respectfully,

*Amanda*

Amanda Gross  
Chief of Staff



Dr. Michael Brogan  
Senior VP for Academic Affairs



Dr. Greg Naylor  
VP for Strategic Initiatives