March 23, 2020

The 2020 Commencement Ceremonies have been Postponed

We are deeply saddened to share that the 2020 Cal State San Marcos commencement ceremony scheduled for May 15-16 will be postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This very difficult decision was made with the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and guests at the forefront, and in consultation with public health experts and leadership from our 23-campus California State University system.

We know how important commencement is and we are committed to moving this important milestone to a date later this year when it is appropriate and safe to do so. A date has not yet been determined. It’s not a question of whether, but when. In addition, we are committed to consulting with ASI student leaders as we move forward with any plans.

In the meantime, we want to celebrate the Class of 2020 and all of their achievements today by creating a 2020 Graduate Tribute! The Commencement Office would like to feature graduates on the @CSUSMCougarCentral Instagram Page and other social media. Below are the instructions to submit for this 2020 Graduate Tribute:

- Submit a video or picture with a caption noting the following:
  - What you will miss most about CSUSM
  - Your Tukwut Life
  - What you will take from CSUSM on your future endeavors
- Remember, this tribute will be viewed by family members, and potential employers.
- All individuals in the submission must give their consent to have their image/video posted on all CSUSM branded marketing materials and social media pages. Appropriate dress is required; no profane language or images on any clothing.
- If featured, students can win a prize from one of our vendors (Jostens, The Commencement Group Flowers, CSUSM Alumni Association, and diFranco Photography) One prize per person per entry.

To enter, submit your video/photo HERE.

So what now? Once Commencement updates and news is available, we will be emailing your CSUSM email, post on Instagram (@csusmcougarcentral), and the Commencement Website. Once a date has been determined for Commencement, it will be announced via the above avenues. Below is a breakdown on what is needed for Commencement as well as vendor information. Visit our FAQ page for commonly asked questions or send us an email if you have a question that is not answered by viewing our website.

The official announcement that was made on March 18th can be read by clicking here.

Stay Safe and Healthy Fellow Cougars!

Commencement Office
commencement@csusm.edu
www.csusm.edu/commencement
The MUSTS

Make sure your Primary Name and Mailing Address is updated in your MyCSUSM account.

This is to ensure that the correct name is printed on your reader card and your diploma is mailed to the correct address. If changes need to be made, email registrar@csusm.edu noting the changes as well as your student ID number.

Purchase your Regalia

You can purchase your regalia ahead of time or wait until you know more details about Commencement. You just have to have your regalia on the day of your Commencement ceremony. Required regalia on the day of Commencement is just your cap, gown, and tassel (for Master students, you will also need your hood). The University Bookstore is closed for in-person purchases, but is now accepting online purchases! They will be offering Free Ground Shipping on all orders placed while the physical store is closed. In the event regalia needs to be returned (see Return by Mail Instructions) the University Bookstore will accept returns on unworn/undecorated regalia and students will be refunded for the amount paid in the original form of payment used for the purchase. Regalia can be purchased up until the day of your Commencement ceremony (based on availability and University Bookstore hours).

Let Us Know You Intend On Attending Your Ceremony

After you apply to graduate, you will see a message pop-up asking if you plan to attend your Commencement ceremony. You can reply “yes”, “no”, or “remind me later”. You can change your response at any time in your Communication Center. The May 1st deadline has been postponed and the new deadline to respond will be announced once a date for Commencement has been determined.

FUN STUFF to make your Commencement Experience more memorable

Apply to be the Class Speaker or Vocalist at Your Ceremony!

Do you have an inspiring story to share about your experience at CSUSM? Do you have an amazing singing voice? Submit the Commencement Speaker/Vocalist application today to be considered for this year’s Commencement. If you are selected for an in-person audition, you will be notified via the email address you entered on your application. All auditions are live and will be scheduled once University Staff are allowed to have in-person meetings.

EXTRAS

Pre-Order your Lei and CSUSM Branded Kukui Nut Necklace

Save time on the day of Commencement! Pre-Order your Lei and CSUSM Branded Kukui Nut Necklace today by visiting: www.thecommencementgroup.com/csusm/. Order pickup will be at the Commencement Group Tent by the Graduate Check-in on the day of your Commencement Ceremony.

Cap and Gown Photos

It has not yet been determined if the Commencement Office can host a Cap and Gown Photo Session with diFranco Photography. Once we have determined logistics with diFranco Photography and allowed to have in-person meetings at the University, the Commencement office will post details on Instagram as well as the Commencement website.
Purchase your Class Champion Alumni Membership Package!
This exclusive package is available for purchase online through April 20th. The Class Champion alumni membership package includes 2 years of Alumni Association membership, a gift to the Student Philanthropy Scholarship, a donor cord to wear at commencement, and an alumni branded reusable tote, t-shirt, license plate frame, and key chain. Class Champion membership costs $60. Check out the Alumni Association website to learn more about member benefits.

For those who purchased during the pre-sale (February), plans for distribution of your Class Champions package are forthcoming. Please stay tuned. We will email those details.

Personal Graduation Announcements by Jostens
You can purchase your graduation announcements by clicking here.

Collegiate Jewelry by Jostens
Showcase your CSUSM pride in style with the Jostens’ collection of stunning class rings. Browse multiple designs and order a class ring by clicking here.

Get your Grad that perfect Gift!
Purchase regalia accessories, diploma frames, alumni gear, and other graduate gifts from the University Bookstore. You’re sure to find that perfect gift your graduate will cherish!

Recognition Ceremonies for Latin Honors
College recognition ceremonies where students (if eligible) receive their honor cords have been cancelled. Logistics are being determined on the distribution of honor cords. Students who qualified and were invited to these honor recognition ceremonies were notified via email by the college representative.

Faculty Staff Association (FSAs) Recognition Ceremonies
The FSAs will be postponing their recognition ceremonies.

It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when.
On behalf of the Faculty Staff Associations, Asian Pacific Islander Faculty Staff Association (APIFSA), Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), Latino Association of Faculty & Staff (LAFS), and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer and Ally Faculty Staff Association (LGBTQA FSA), we join to share the news that the Class of 2020 recognition ceremonies will be rescheduled considering the COVID-19 health crisis. This decision was difficult to make; however, it is in line with the CSU Chancellor’s announcement and our University’s message that the CSU commencement ceremonies will be postponed across all 23 campuses.
During times such as these, we are reminded that our family, friends, and community are essential in contributing to the greater good as we focus on a common goal—combating the virus as quickly as we can—through social distancing.
Our commitment to you is we will share information on new dates for our Faculty and Staff recognition ceremonies and distribution of stoles when the time is right and we return to our normal routines.
Know that we are extremely proud of all Cal State San Marcos students for the resiliency and flexibility shown as the campus transitions to a virtual learning environment. We look forward to celebrating the achievements and successes with all graduating seniors soon. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when.
Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Faculty and Staff President noted below:
Take care and wishing you health and safety.

Best,

APIFSA – Christine Lee - clee@csusm.edu
BFSA – LaPorcha Ellick - lellick@csusm.edu
LAFS – Jesus Flores - jflores@csusm.edu
LGBTQA FSA – Arun Sethuraman - asethuraman@csusm.edu

READ: Press Release from CSU Chancellors Office re: Coronavirus