



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 3, 2020

Dear Hornet Family:

During the past few weeks, we have been met with unanticipated challenges and unavoidable changes brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We know this time has been especially difficult for our graduating seniors. Many of them are first-generation college students and will be the first in their families to earn a college degree. For them, commencement is the moment that they have been waiting for since their arrival on Harris-Stowe's campus.

Considering the information federal, state and local government has provided us, I write today to inform you that Harris-Stowe State University will be postponing its commencement ceremony originally scheduled for May 16, 2020 to December 12, 2020.

While we are disappointed about the postponement, I am hopeful that this new date will allow us time to move beyond this public health crisis.

Please know that our new commencement ceremony date will not delay the conferral of degrees. All degrees will be certified in May for those students who have satisfied all graduation requirements.

We know this is disappointing news for everyone, especially for our 2020 graduates, and their families. While the ceremony will look different this year, we want you to know that your accomplishments are no less impressive. For information about graduation requirements and the degree conferral processes, please visit the Registrar's Graduation webpage at www.hssu.edu/registrar. We are looking forward to celebrating each of our graduates in December.

With Hornet Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwayne Smith".

Dr. Dwayne Smith,
Interim President