

May 1, 2020

Dear Students,

Here we are, speeding into finals week and the end of the most peculiar semester in my 40 years at RMC. I hope you are well and ready for your classes' final challenges. As always, if you are in need of assistance in these last few days, please do not hesitate to contact us.

SUMMER CLASSES: after careful consideration the decision has been made to offer all summer classes exclusively in the online format this year. While May term has always been online, the decision to teach June term online as well is now official. I know this will be disappointing news to some, but it is our belief that a more conservative approach to reopening now will help us to more quickly return to normal. Summer school registrations are still being accepted, you can find the complete list of May and June term course offerings by following this link: [May/June Schedule](#). If you have questions about the status of your current May or June term courses, please contact the registrar at studentrecords@rocky.edu.

2020 STUDENT EXCELLENCE: The 2019-20 Academic, Athletic and Leadership Awards will be announced Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00am via the RMC website and will be found at: rocky.edu/2020-student-recognition. Congratulations to all award recipients; your accomplishments are what make Rocky Mountain College exceptional.

PEER MENTORS/RA's/ORIENTATION LEADERSHIP: Applications for all student leadership positions continue to be accepted. If you are interested in helping serve your fellow students, develop tangible (and marketable) leadership skills and get paid for your contributions, please consider applying for one or more of the positions. Position descriptions can be found [here](#). If you're interested in any of the positions, contact

PEER MENTOR, steven.peterman@rocky.edu
RESIDENT ASSISTANT, shaydean.saye@rocky.edu
ORIENTATION LEADERSHIP, tracy.mouser@rocky.edu

SURVEY: Early next week I will be forwarding to all students a link for our Current & Returning Student Survey. The survey is being conducted by an outside organization, the [Hanover Research Group](#). We believe that your participation will help us to understand how the pandemic has affected our students and inform future protocols and services. When you receive the link, I hope you take a few minutes (10 or less) to provide us with your valued opinion.

BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT: You are likely aware that the 2020 Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies are being conducted in the virtual environment this year. Links to both ceremonies will be posted to the RMC website on Friday and Saturday, May 8th and 9th. You'll be able to access the Baccalaureate ceremonies at noon on May 8th and Commencement at 1:00pm on May 9th.

AND FINALLY: Campus Counselor, Cynthia Hutchinson, put together some thoughts on saying good-bye. As we end this unprecedented semester, I thought you might like to consider

her musings. I would also encourage you to reach out to faculty, staff and your peers in the coming days and weeks to formalize your good-byes, and where appropriate, thank others for their gifts to you.

Endings have a way of being ignored. So often we are caught in the process of moving on to the next event, the next task at hand or the next priority in our lives and avoid the discomfort and even grief that comes with an ending.

We may count on the chance to meet up later or plan on attending an official event such as the last concert or the final class of the semester or the excitement of graduation where students, faculty, staff and family members weave in and out of each other's circles giving congratulations without actually thinking of how this is a good-bye.

With the multitude of changes with COVID-19, saying good-bye can get squished and packed away in the effort to keep moving forward. For some it ends up being all business to leave campus and that feeling of missing out gets pushed away. At some point we may notice how significant people may not be there when we are and leaves a fresh sense of grief and loss.

Traditionally saying good bye is done with a hand-shake, a hug and promises to meet up again. In the days ahead we can all make an effort to express with calls, text messages, an email and even a written note how much it means to know one another and to look forward to connecting again. Saying goodbye to one another can allow for loss and grief to be honored and above all gives expression to thought and feeling in the present moment of change.

Have a great weekend and do not hesitate to reach out if RMC can be of service.

Warmest Regards,

Brad