

## EMAIL TO STUDENTS 032620

Dear Minneapolis College Students,

Yesterday, Governor Walz issued a [Stay at Home Executive Order](#) directing most Minnesotans to stay home for the next two weeks. Minnesota State Colleges & Universities [Chancellor Malhotra emailed](#) you yesterday describing what this new directive means for the 37 institutions across the state including ours. Considering this new development, I am writing to you today to share what Minneapolis College is doing to help you complete spring semester, continue progressing on your educational journey and safeguard your wellbeing.

All of us at the college are making real-time, difficult decisions that we realize have widespread effects. Over the past few weeks, we have been preparing to welcome you back to your coursework on March 30. That has not changed. Most courses and services will be available to you remotely. Check with your instructor if you are unsure how to participate in a class. During the two-week Stay at Home period of aggressive social distancing, the college will offer minimal face-to-face, on campus instruction. Students will have limited access to a computer lab and the Boynton Health Clinic. Following the two-week period, some learning and support activities will resume on campus, where necessary, in a manner that allows us to practice careful social distancing. Staff has reconfigured the campus to support these activities.

The amount of change we've experienced in such a short period of time is staggering. Our lives have changed fundamentally. There are many things that have yet to be decided. Please be sure to check your college email and D2L announcements frequently for instructions and guidance from faculty and staff. And, [minneapolis.edu](http://minneapolis.edu) will be your 'go-to' for information about how to access services and resources.

You are a valued member of our college community and we will continue to put students at the center of our planning and decision-making. With heavy hearts, we announced last week our May Commencement Ceremony will be cancelled due to COVID-19. As a first-generation college student myself, I remember how excited I was to plan for my graduation. And then, as a nursing student, I was thrilled in anticipation of my pinning and recognition ceremony. Understanding the significance of commencement and recognition ceremonies, I am particularly mindful of students who are planning to graduate this May. Rest assured, we will find another way to celebrate you and your achievements. As of now, I cannot tell you how, when or where this will occur, but I can tell you why. It's because we are so proud of you for your accomplishments and grateful to have been a part of your journey.

Amidst great change, Minneapolis College remains committed to our mission to provide access to the transformative power of education. We will continue delivering on our mission even as we continue to make difficult decisions and changes to protect the health and safety of the entire campus community. Be sure to care for yourselves and each other. We are in this together, and together is how we will get through this.

**Sharon J. Pierce, Ed.D.**

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