

ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 16, 2021

Dear EC Community,

It has been one year since the coronavirus first affected life here on the EC campus. On March 16, 2020, we held our first online-only classes, a move that was handled quickly and adeptly by faculty and staff. And while life is not yet back to “normal,” I wanted to take a moment to share some positive news.

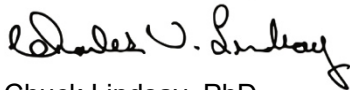
We are developing a plan to hold a modified, in-person Commencement to celebrate the Classes of 2021 and 2020. While in-person, attendance will be limited to the graduating student and two guests, seating will be socially distanced, and masks required. We are working with the Chemung County Health Department to ensure the ceremony meets current COVID-19 guidelines, and once the plans are finalized and approved by CCHD, we will share the details with members of both Classes. If the guidelines change before Commencement Weekend (June 4-6), we will adjust our plans as needed.

While we are still unable to offer our full, traditional ceremony, this plan would allow the Classes of 2020 and 2021 to celebrate in-person with classmates and family. Graduating students should watch their email for additional information on Candlelight and other Commencement weekend activities.

As we look ahead to Fall 2021, we fully anticipate a return to in-person classes and a more traditional campus life experience at EC. While we may need to remain vigilant and continue to practice ongoing mitigation efforts such as mask wearing and on-campus COVID-19 testing, the current trajectory of infection and the anticipated rate of vaccination bode well for a return to some normalcy.

I hope this news, combined with the promise of spring, brings a lift to everyone’s spirits. I understand it has been a challenging year, but I am confident brighter and more “normal” days lie just ahead.

Sincerely,



Chuck Lindsay, PhD
President