Greetings all,

I hope this correspondence finds you well and in good health. Listed below is the information that should address many of the questions regarding logistics and our December Commencement COVID-19 protocols. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

As we have stated on numerous occasions, managing COVID-19 is like managing a moving target. However, as we seek to execute an in-person December commencement, our primary goal is to create a safe environment for all parties concerned as we celebrate the academic accomplishments of our December graduates.

December 2021 Commencement:
The commencement exercises are scheduled for Friday, December 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Varick Auditorium. All students, faculty and staff participants will assemble in the New Trent Gymnasium at 9:00 a.m. to prepare for the line-up and processional.

December Commencement COVID-19 Protocols:
Adhering to our COVID-19 protocols have proven effective during this academic semester. Each protocol contributes to our ability to effectively manage the COVID-19 virus successfully while mitigating our risks. The December 2021 commencement protocols are as follows:

1. All students will be required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test in order to participate in the in-person ceremony. We are making testing available on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 2 p.m. in Varick Auditorium. As a convenience and to accommodate our students while promoting COVID-19 safety, we will have commencement rehearsal immediately following testing at 3:30 pm. Also, we will distribute cap and gowns at this time.
2. Each student will receive a total of eight (8) tickets. In order to execute in-person commencement safely, we must adhere to social distancing in Varick Auditorium. Therefore, space will be limited and eight (8) tickets extended to each graduate will enable us to accomplish this event consistent with our COVID-19 Space Utilization protocol.

3. All guests will be required to show proof of vaccination or in the absence of vaccine proof, individuals must show they have received a negative COVID-19 diagnostic PCR test within 72-hours. Individuals should test on December 7, 2021, to meet this requirement. We do not recommend testing after this date although there are some laboratories that offer expedited results utilizing the PCR testing method. **Please note:** As a courtesy, Livingstone College will offer complimentary COVID-19 PCR testing on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Varick Auditorium for the family members and guests of our graduates.

4. Masks will be required by all participants and guests to enter Varick Auditorium. Also, masks are required to be worn properly, covering the nose and mouth, during the duration of the commencement exercise.

Again, we apologize for the delay related to communicating this information. We are attempting to manage our way through a global pandemic, which has been responsible for 260 million cases and 5.2 million deaths. Every decision related to execution must be properly vetted to ensure the health and safety of the entire campus community.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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