

Dear Graduating Class of 2020!

Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Peralta Community College District and Merritt College has determined that based on public health guidelines/restrictions and in order to protect the health and safety of our students, families, friends and communities, an in-person Graduation Ceremony will not be able to take place this spring.

The College knows how important the ability to celebrate graduation in-person is to our students. When it becomes safe and appropriate again for large events, we will explore the options that may be available at that time.

In order to recognize the significant accomplishments of our graduates, Merritt College is currently planning our 1st Virtual Graduation Ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2020's accomplishments. The online celebration allows each graduate to remotely share this moment with your family, friends, and community.

Each graduate will have the opportunity to be recognized with an official slide that can be personalized with your photo and personal message. The slide can be downloaded and shared on social media.

On Thursday, April 30, 2020, all students who petitioned to graduate were sent an email to submit a photo and personal message by Thursday, May 7, 2020. Students who did not respond, were sent a text message on Friday, May 8, 2020. The message instructed graduates to email their photo and personal statements to Maria Spencer (m Spencer@peralta.edu) and Doris Hankins (dhankins@peralta.edu) in .jpeg or .png format. Personal statements are optional and must not exceed 150 characters.

Unfortunately, graduates who do not submit their information by Saturday, May 9, 2020 will not be included in the virtual commencement ceremony.

The Commencement Ceremony will be available for viewing on the Merritt College website on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 5:30 PM. If you wish to purchase regalia please visit the Merritt College Graduation webpage at <https://www.merritt.edu/wp/graduation/>.

Sincerely,

Merritt College (Virtual) Commencement Committee