



Office OF THE PRESIDENT

NCU Community,

It's been a challenging week across the nation, and a message right now about commencement may seem out of place. We know many of you have been eager to make plans. In keeping with our promise to let you know our plans this week, we'd like to share the following news.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we explored all options and considerations for our annual commencement ceremony this August in Phoenix, Arizona.

We love graduation, and our preference was to hold an in-person ceremony. Our priority, however, has to be the health and safety of the NCU community. After reviewing current guidelines from federal and state authorities, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, we have decided to postpone this year's **in-person** commencement ceremony to the spring of 2021.

Trust me, we looked at everything: drive-in theaters, race tracks, convention centers, but due to the risks associated with COVID-19, nothing worked. Our primary obligation is to your safety and health. However, we still want to celebrate your success before the rescheduled in-person event. Instead, NCU will host a live-streamed virtual commencement ceremony on August 22, 2020. Further details about this event, including how to RSVP, will be shared in the coming weeks.

The revised schedule of events is shared below. All graduates are welcome to attend either the spring or fall in-person commencement in Phoenix in addition to the virtual ceremony. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and any resulting restrictions on large gatherings and will let you know as soon as possible should these 2021 dates change.

- Virtual Commencement – Saturday, August 22, 2020
- Spring in-person Commencement – Location: Phoenix, AZ; Date to be announced
- Fall in-person Commencement – Location: Phoenix, AZ; Date to be announced

While we are disappointed not to come together in Phoenix, we won't let the physical restrictions prevent us from celebrating your accomplishments and academic achievements in August as planned. And we hope to celebrate your success AGAIN at an in-person event in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Harpool". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "H".

David Harpool, PhD, JD
President