



COMMUNICATION MEMO

Office of the President

2020-04-08

MEMO: **SPRING CONVOCATION**

TO: Students, Faculty, Staff, Board of Governors, Chancellor

FROM: Dave Marasco, University Registrar (Co-Chair, Convocation)
 Paul Quesnele, Secretary to the Board/Executive Lead Special Projects
 (Co-Chair, Convocation)
 Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor

We understand that the Algoma University Convocation is a very important event for everyone on our campuses, especially students and their families. It is a favourite event of the year for many as we celebrate the academic accomplishments, perseverance and success of our graduates. Given its importance and significance we have taken time to consult with a number of groups including our student leadership and, with that input, have made the decision to delay our formal convocation ceremonies.

As such, although a disappointment for us all, we have made the decision to delay our traditional in-person spring graduation ceremonies in Sault Ste. Marie (June 6) and Brampton (June 11). The ceremony originally scheduled in Timmins (May 22) by our partners at Northern College has also been postponed.

With this being said, our convocation committee will continue to meet to develop plans for virtual celebrations as a first step in recognizing your academic achievements and will hold a formal convocation ceremony when it is safe for our communities to come together. Rest assured, all those meeting the requirements of their degree, diploma or certificate will still have their credentials conferred by the Academic Senate of Algoma University on Friday, June 5. Those graduating will then receive their degree, diploma or certificate parchment in the mail.

Although we know students will be disappointed about the delay, please know that Algoma University is committed to holding a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020, when we are able to do so. We are hoping for late fall. The committee's goal is to host a very special celebration that will include all the pomp and circumstance of our traditional convocation ceremony and more. You have earned this moment Thunderbirds and the entire AU community looks forward to celebrating with you!