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April 3, 2020

### **College Update**

I hope that you are being safe and staying at home to help stem the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your safety and wellbeing are important to us and we want to make sure that you remain safe to obtain your goals in education.

The local and state health officials have been providing regular updates on the severity of this pandemic. As such, we realize the length of the stay at home order may be extended, or the social gathering restrictions may be extended beyond the normal graduation time. Therefore, we regret to inform you that we have decided to cancel the graduation ceremony originally scheduled for May 9, 2020 at the Stiefel Theatre and the Pinning Ceremony for Nursing and Dental programs.

Graduation is a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the students who work so hard with the faculty and staff to achieve their dreams. We want to share in those accomplishments with you and are working to provide an alternative program to celebrate those accomplishments. Our teams are working on a plan to provide a virtual graduation ceremony that you may participate in to share those achievements with your friends and families. We know that these past weeks have been difficult, and the coming weeks will be challenging too, but we want to look forward with joy at what you have done. We want to share your success with the world! Be looking for information coming soon.

The college offices will remain closed to the public and most employees will continue working remotely until April 30, 2020. We realize this will also affect end of program testing and certification testing for students. We will work on solutions for those needs in the coming weeks. Students who are experiencing emergency needs should check with Jennifer Callis to see what resources the college may be able to put you in touch with. We will post updates periodically, but please check your CANVAS account and college email, and communicate with your instructors often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory A. Nichols".

Gregory A. Nichols