

**From: Dr. Selma Botman**

**Date: March 11, 2021, 11:03 a.m.**

To the members of the YU Community,

I write to share the plans for this year's Commencement Season.

The Class of 2021 has proven to be a unique and resilient group of students that possesses enormous talent, creativity and a dedication to helping others. You provided outstanding examples of Yeshiva University's values as you faced many obstacles this past year. We are so proud that you have risen to those challenges with graciousness and perseverance.

We understand that many of you were excited about the possibility of having an in-person commencement. The administration, as well as your dedicated professors, joined you in this hope. Regretfully, however, this is not something that can be safely done at this time, and we have made the reluctant decision to celebrate this year's commencement virtually.

We assure you that this is not a decision we took lightly. We looked into many options, working with members of the administration and the senior class in researching both indoor and outdoor venues, trying to make an in-person commencement a reality.

Unfortunately, following the public health and safety guidance of New York City and New York State, as well as guidance from our medical director, we came to the conclusion that we could not have an in-person event attended by thousands of people. Perhaps you are not surprised, and we are deeply disappointed as well. However, we feel this is the best and safest option that will allow for all graduates, families, faculty and friends to participate in the celebratory event.

We are committed to making your commencement joyful, memorable and meaningful, and I am delighted to inform you that the Yeshiva University 90th Annual Commencement Ceremony will take place on **May 26, 2021, at 1 p.m.** We are also planning for an in-person celebration just for undergraduate seniors, pending approval from local public health officials. More details will be shared in the coming weeks, and we appreciate and have taken into consideration the input that you and your fellow classmates have shared.

Our graduate schools' commencement ceremonies will be virtual as well.

Please save the following dates:

- **Monday, May 24:** Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology
- **Tuesday, May 25:** Wurzweiler School of Social Work
- **Wednesday, May 26:** Yeshiva University 90th Annual Commencement

- **Thursday, May 27:** Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- **Tuesday, June 1:** Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- **Sunday, June 6:** Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration
- **Thursday, June 10:** Katz School of Science and Health and Sy Syms Graduate programs

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate the challenges of this past year.

We hope that the time will soon come when the pandemic will be behind us and we will be able to safely gather in-person with friends and family to celebrate the extraordinary accomplishments of the Class of 2021.

Warmest regards,

**Dr. Selma Botman**

*Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

*Yeshiva University*

commencement@yu.edu