Dear students,

In response to ongoing concerns about the COVID-19 virus and our commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment at SOU, we are postponing the spring 2020 Commencement ceremonies.

We understand how disappointing this is for the SOU community, and in particular our graduating students and their friends and families. We do not take this decision lightly, and feel it is the best option to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. Our intention is to defer the ceremony until we can truly honor the accomplishments of our graduating students with the ceremony and celebration that they deserve – possibly in the fall.

In order to determine how best to proceed, we have developed a very brief survey to graduating students that will help us plan this deferred commencement. All students who have an active degree application are invited to participate in the survey, which will sent to them soon and will conclude on Friday, April 3. A campus announcement with more specifics will follow soon after.

Regardless of the survey’s outcome, all graduating students for this academic year will be invited to participate in 2021 Commencement – where the classes of 2020 and 2021 will both be honored.

We wish for our students to know that we are committed to honoring the class of 2020 and regret that these extraordinary circumstances necessitate such a difficult decision.

Sincerely,

Linda Schott  
President, Southern Oregon University