Dear Students,

To begin, I congratulate all of you on completing another week of remote learning. I know that the past few weeks have been difficult for all of you. Balancing personal responsibilities, health concerns, and work demands with a swift and unforeseen transition to a new educational model has been a challenge. And yet, all of you rose to the occasion and have supported your peers in numerous ways. I will admire your perseverance and respect your resilience for years to come.

While I do my best to focus on positive updates and silver-linings during this difficult time, I can't help but think about what April and May usually look like at RCC. Typically, we are in the midst of distributing invitations to Student Awards Night and Commencement, attending end-of-year presentations, passing out caps and gowns, and completing all of the work needed for a grand commencement ceremony.

I'm hopeful that by this time next year, the College will be operating as usual, and my schedule will be full of end-of-year events being held on-campus. This year, we must do our part to flatten the curve, and celebrate the end of the academic year differently.

After reviewing your responses to the commencement survey, it is clear that RCC students strongly prefer an in-person commencement ceremony to a virtual commencement ceremony. As such, we are rescheduling the 2020 Commencement Ceremony to be held on Friday, December 4, 2020. We did not reach this decision lightly; but, we know it is the right decision for the College, our graduates, and our community.

Our staff is hard and work discussing and planning other ways to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2020; and, we will share these plans soon.

In the meantime, please continue to focus your efforts on successfully completing the spring 2020 semester. Know that anyone who is scheduled to graduate in May will have your degree conferred on May 31, 2020, and your diplomas will be mailed to your address. Summer graduates will have their degrees conferred and mailed in August. If you still need to petition to graduate, please schedule an appointment with an advisor at https://rcc.mywconline.net by May 8, 2020.

The Enrollment Center staff will ensure that your transcripts are sent to transfer institutions on time, and advisors remain ready and able to answer any questions you have about degree completion.

While I am saddened by the need to postpone the most special event of the academic year, I am confident that the ceremony on December 4th will be a joyous occasion that none of us forget.
Please continue to prioritize your health and well-being. Take care, and know that I am here to support you.

Best Regards,

Dr. Valerie Roberson  
President, Roxbury Community College