July 7, 2020

Dear Deans,

As educators who have invested deeply in the success of our graduating students, we wish nothing more than to honor their achievements and to celebrate with them and their families; yet we cannot in good conscience participate in in-person Commencement exercises at this time.

We recognize that the university intends to follow state health and safety guidelines. Just because a choice is legal, however, does not make it wise. We cannot support an event that brings together hundreds of people and prompts travel by family members across the state and country, at a time when infections are rising to record highs each day.

In addition, we cannot support an event that obliges our professional and support staff colleagues to put at risk their health and the health of their families, for fear of risking their job.

It is therefore with regret, but considered resolve, that we decline the invitation to attend. We the undersigned faculty urge you to reconsider pursuing commencement at this time.

Arnaud Kurze, Assistant Professor, Department of Justice Studies
John Luttropp, Professor, Art and Design
Michael Viega, Assistant Professor, Cali School of Music
David Witten, Professor, Cali School of Music
Ethne Swartz, Professor, Department of Management
Rich Wolfson, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Robert Cart, Professor, Cali School of Music
Gary Kleinman, Professor, Department of Accounting and Finance
Ahmet Baytas, Professor, Department of Economics,
Vanessa Greenwood, Professor, School of Communication and Media
Elizabeth Wishnick, Professor, Department of Political Science and Law
Francesca Laguardia, Associate Professor, Department of Justice Studies
Fawzia Afzal-Khan, Professor, Department of English
Hugh Curnutt, Associate Professor, School of Communication and Media
Wendy Nielsen, Associate Professor, Department of English
Johnny Lorenz, Professor, Department of English
David Del Principe, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Lisa Anne Zilney, Associate Professor, Department of Justice Studies
Lois Oppenheim, Professor, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Katherine McCaffrey, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Raul Galoppe, Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Latino Studies
Anthony Inciong, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Design
Julia Landweber, Associate Professor, Department of History
Harry W. Haines, Professor, School of Communication and Media
Emily J. Klein, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Marisa S. Trubiano, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Antoinette Pole, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Law
John Specchio, Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
Mark Hardy, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance
Jennifer Yang, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Reginia Judge, Associate Professor, Department of Justice Studies
Mark Clatterbuck, Associate Professor, Department of Religion
Dawn Marie Hayes, Professor, Department of History
Yeon Bai, Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
Jun Hierholzer, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Design
Renata Blumberg, Assistant Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
Lisa DeLorenzo, Professor, Cali School of Music
Teresa Fiore, Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Meena Mahadevan, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
Julie Farnum, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology
Jennifer Krumins, Associate Professor, Department of Biology
Naomi Liebler, Professor, Department of English
Christopher Matthews, Professor, Department of Anthropology
Michael Robbins, Assistant Professor, Department of English
Beth Sapiro, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work & Child Advocacy
Marta López Luaces, Professor, Department of Spanish and Latino Studies
John Soboslai, Assistant Professor, Department of Religion
Patricia Matthew, Associate Professor, Department of English
Jazmin Reyes-Portillo, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Jennifer Pardo, Professor, Department of Psychology
James Campanella, Professor, Department of Biology
Lise Raven, Associate Professor, Filmmaking BFA
Benjamin Lapp, Associate Professor, Department of History
Cecilia Wagner Ricci, Professor, Department Accounting and Finance
Valentin Soto, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, and Latino and Latin American Studies
Daniel Mengara, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Lauren Carr, Associate Professor, Art & Design
A. Seddik Meziani, Professor, Department of Accounting & Finance
Debbie Saivetz, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance
Art Simon, Professor, Department of English
Lise Raven, Associate Professor, School of Communication and Media
Debra Otte, Associate Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance
Amanda Birnbaum, Professor, Department of Public Health
Jaime Grinberg, Professor, Department of Educational Foundations
Alina Reznitskaya, Professor, Department Of Educational Foundations
Joan Ficke, Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education
Kristin Scrabis-Fletcher, Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education
Robert Gilbert, Associate Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education
Tamara Leech, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health
Lyndal Khaw, Associate Professor, Department of Family Science and Human Development
Brad van Eeden-Moorefield, Professor, Department of Family Science and Human Development
Kathleen Bauer, Professor, Department of Nutrition and Food Studies
Lisa Lieberman, Professor, Department of Public Health
Angela Sheely-Moore, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling
Jessica Restaino, Professor, Department of Writing Studies
Jonathan Caspi, Professor, Family Science & Human Development
Monica Taylor, Professor, Department of Educational Foundations
Soyoung Lee, Associate Professor, Department of Family Science and Human Development
David Middlemas, Professor, Department of Exercise Science and Physical Education
Peter Hosick, Assistant Professor, Department of Exercise Science & Physical Education
Kathleen Loysen, Associate Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Michael Hannon, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling
Vanessa Alleyne, Associate Professor, Department of Counseling
Mary Jo John, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health
Doreen Liou, Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition & Food Studies
Alicia Broderick, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Olena Nesteruk, Associate Professor, Department of Family Science and Human Development
Tony Pemberton, Associate Professor, School of Communication and Media