Hello Graduating Lobos!

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving! As we plan for our virtual commencement exercise for Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 am, we want to provide some background on how things will proceed. Once the initial ceremony shows at 10, a recording will be accessible through the Sul Ross website.

The Ceremony:

We recognize that you may be gathering in living rooms, backyards, or around a computer but we want to make the virtual ceremony as interactive as possible and reminiscent of the live event. We invite you to wear your graduation regalia and share the experience with your family and friends. Take photos and share your pictures on our social media pages with hashtags: #SRSU2020 and #LoboGrad2020. Even though this is a special time, please remember to practice safe COVID precautions as you celebrate!

We will introduce the platform party and speaker. This fall’s speaker will be President Pete P. Gallego, maintaining a tradition that Sul Ross has followed for decades wherein new presidents give the commencement address during their first full semester. Because of COVID restrictions, as well as several of our academic administrators recovering from or isolating because of the virus, the platform party will be smaller than usual.

Once the president gives his address, we will describe undergraduate honors designations, then proceed to conferring degrees. First will be master’s degrees. Even though you will be in your own location, we will ask you to stand as we call your specific degree (for example, Master of Agriculture, Master of Arts, Master of Business Administration, Master of Education, Master of Public Administration and Master of Science). Once certified by the president, you will be instructed to move your tassel from right to left, signifying completion of the degree. We will then confer bachelor’s degrees in the same manner (Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Science). Once the president certifies your degree, you will be instructed to move your tassel from right to left.

Master’s graduates receive a hood to represent their degree. If you have your hood, at this time you can have a friend or loved one place the hood on you.

During the virtual ceremony, your name (in alphabetical order) and degree by college will be scrolled in the background.

At the end of the virtual ceremony, you will be given an opportunity to thank friends and family who have supported you on your journey. The conclusion of the program will be marked by singing the Sul Ross alma matter by the Sul Ross State University Concert Choir. We encourage you to sing along with the choir. The words will be printed on the back of the program.

The written program, including all graduates, will be available online and in a PDF file. The file will be posted shortly before commencement.
Events in Which You Can Engage During the Ceremony:

If you would like to share photos for commencement, please send them to Robert Greeson robert.greeson@sulross.edu as soon as you can. We will provide diploma covers for students from the Alpine campus prior to commencement. It is our hope that a friend or loved one can present the diploma to you at the point in the ceremony that degrees are conferred upon you. Some of you picked up your cover on campus prior to the Thanksgiving break. We will mail them to the remainder of you this week. Diploma covers for RGC campus students will be distributed during the graduate photo shoot taking place in Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Uvalde. If you do not attend the photo shoot, the diploma cover will be mailed with the diploma.

Please note, we are unable to give you the actual diploma until we have validated your degree, and that can’t occur until all grades are turned in. The actual diploma will be sent by registered mail the week following commencement.

If you purchased regalia, you will be able to move your tassel to the left at the appropriate time. Additionally, undergraduate students receiving honors will be able to drape the honors cord around your neck at the appropriate time in the program. Please note that honors designations only apply to undergraduates. Master’s recipients may be hooded at the appropriate time in the ceremony.

We hope you can celebrate with friends and family, share your experience and mark your accomplishment by participating with the Sul Ross family to make this a memorable experience.

Regalia/hoods/honors cord and medallions:

If you have not already purchased regalia, you can order a cap and gown here: http://www.sulrossbookstore.com/home. If you need to order a class ring, you can find that information here: https://www.balfour.com/texas/alpine/sul-ross-state-university.

If you are scheduled to receive an honor cord (Alpine) we will mail it with the diploma cover. On occasion, someone on the border of earning honors does so once final grades are tabulated. In that event, we mail an honors cord along with the diploma. If you are slated to receive an honor medallion from RGC, those will be mailed to you along with your diploma.

If you belong to an honor society that provides a cord, please contact your club advisor to make arrangements to receive that cord.

We recognize that academic life for the past two semesters has been in turmoil as we negotiate the COVID-19 virus. Although this is not a traditional commencement ceremony, it does not diminish your achievement. Each of you made many sacrifices to attain the goal of receiving your college degree. It has not been easy, and that makes you a unique and special graduating class. Congratulations on your upcoming graduation, we wish you a lifetime of success. Go Lobos!
Sincerely,

Rob Kinucan
Provost