

# ECSU to hold virtual commencement May 19

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WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University administration has recently announced it is planning a virtual 2020 commencement ceremony May 19 to recognize its graduates.

An announcement posted last week

on ECSU's COVID-19 response webpage informed the public of these plans.

That followed a previous cancellation notice of the commencement ceremony that would have been held at the XL Center in Hartford.

The University of Connecticut is also recognizing its 2020 graduating

class through a virtual commencement ceremony slated for May 9 with in-person celebrations anticipated for Oct. 9-11.

“COVID-19 has changed our plans this year. As you know, we will not be at the XL Center on May 19, but this should not diminish your sense of accomplishment.” read the

notice written by ECSU President Elsa Núñez.

Núñez explained a fall commencement ceremony is still possible, depending on the status of COVID-19 later in the year.

“If circumstances permit and we can safely have a commencement

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event this fall for our graduates and their families, we are committed to doing so and will notify seniors and families well in advance,” the announcement reads.

Graduating seniors will be provided with a YouTube video link that will begin live streaming at 6 p.m. May 19, according to Núñez.

Remarks will be made by

Núñez and additional ECSU officials along with guest speaker Mark Boxer, who is the executive vice president and chief information officer of Cigna.

“Without our graduates and their families in the audience, the program will be shorter than usual, while still providing the appropriate degree of dignity, grace and celebration,” Núñez wrote.

Núñez encouraged fami-

lies to take photographs with their upcoming graduates, which the administration is hoping to use for a slideshow on the university’s website.

“We are compiling a slideshow for our website, consisting of photographs you take with your family in your cap and gown. Our professional photography company will be contacting you to gather those photos, at no cost to you,” the notice reads.

Before the ceremony, seniors will also be mailed a program including the list of all graduating seniors, a diploma cover and a commemorative graduation cap.

Graduates will receive their diplomas after final grades are posted for the spring semester, according to the notice.

*Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.*