To Candidates for the PhD, EdD, DMA, and DNP Degrees at the University of Rochester’s 170th Annual Commencement:

My sincere congratulations on your academic accomplishments and success! A doctoral degree represents the culmination of years of commitment, dedication, and work. As a degree candidate, I am delighted to invite you to participate in your Commencement on **Saturday, May 16th at 9:00 a.m.** in Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theatre. This ceremony recognizes the distinguished accomplishments of doctoral graduates from all schools of the University. You and your guests are invited to celebrate your achievements and meet faculty and students who shaped your University experience.

At Commencement, President Sarah Mangelsdorf will formally confer your degree and present a diploma to each graduate. You will then be presented with a doctoral hood. The ceremonial hooding of doctoral degree recipients recognizes their academic achievements and welcomes them into the community of scholars. You may invite your faculty advisor to register to attend the ceremony and hood you. If your advisor is not available, the Commencement marshals, who are distinguished faculty members, will hood you.

**Registering to Participate:**

Deadlines to participate in commencement are earlier than the deadline for the completion of the PhD requirements. **To participate, you MUST complete your regalia order and online registration.**

Details are below:

1. **All participants are required to rent or buy University of Rochester regalia** (caps, hoods and gowns). The deadline to order commencement regalia is **Monday, April 6th**. Please order online at:  
   **https://rochesterdr.shopoakhalli.com/**

   If you cannot make it to the deadline for ordering your regalia online, UR Bookstore will try its best to process your regalia request manually. Please call (585) 275-9270 or email bookstore_ops@ur.rochester.edu.

   All rented regalia must be returned; you may not keep hoods, caps, or tassels. If rental regalia are not returned by **Tuesday, May 26th**, the replacement value of $979.00 will be billed to you directly.

2. **In order to participate in the ceremony, you must complete online registration by Friday, April 10th** at:  

   The online registration site collects important information, such as your name pronunciation, the degree you are receiving, and whether your family needs special seating arrangements. If you do not register by April 10th, you cannot participate in the ceremony.
Ceremony Details:

On May 16th, please check-in at the desk located in Lowry Hall of the Eastman Theatre, between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. You will be directed to the Grand Balcony for assembly. If you arrive late, you will be placed at the end of the line and will receive a blank diploma.

Please note that only doctoral candidates will be permitted on the Grand Balcony and your guests will be directed to seating in Kodak Hall.

The event begins with a concert prelude at 8:30 a.m. The formal ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m. and should end at approximately around 10:30 a.m., when you and your guests are invited to a reception in the courtyard outside of Miller Center.

Your guests do not need tickets, but we ask that you indicate when registering online the number of guests in your party so we can plan accordingly. Please also indicate any special accommodation needs on the registration site. Accessible seating is available in a reserved area.

Monroe Wheelchair rents wheelchairs on a daily/weekly basis. Please call directly to make arrangements: (585) 385-3920 (www.monroewheelchair.com).

**Again, to participate, you MUST complete regalia order by Monday, April 6th and online registration by Friday, April 10th.**

If you need additional information, please reach out to Aylin Tunay in the Event and Classroom Management Office (aylin.tunay@rochester.edu, (585) 275-2094) or access the Commencement website at http://www.rochester.edu/commencement for frequently asked questions.

Congratulations!

Melissa Sturge-Apple
Vice Provost and University Dean of Graduate Education