Dear Students and Graduates:

The Commencement Task Force is happy to provide an update on graduation plans for May 14, 2021.

As you know, the pandemic has created significant barriers to how college graduations are traditionally celebrated. The Minnesota State System Office has instructed colleges and universities statewide that large, indoor graduation ceremonies are not permitted for Spring 2021. This safety measure is based on Minnesota Department of Health recommendations. Hennepin Technical College (HTC) is unable to hold a ceremony at the Minneapolis Convention Center this Spring.

In preparation for planning for an alternative celebration, the HTC Commencement Task Force surveyed students to discover the most important aspects of graduation for them. A plan was developed using survey results, as well as in consultation with college leadership, staff, and faculty. The goal is to recognize the achievements of each graduate and provide opportunities for graduates to celebrate safely. Below are the events that have been planned by the Commencement Task Force.

**On-Campus Visit – May 12 and May 13**

**Pick up your Celebration Box + photography available**

- Graduates, schedule an appointment at the Brooklyn Park Campus or Eden Prairie Campus to pick up a custom prepared Celebration Box (scheduling link available [HERE](#)). The box will include a graduation cap, gown, tassel, earned academic awards, diploma cover, graduation program, and limited edition mask.
- At the appointment, a professional photographer will be available to take your photo and we will have a more casual “selfie” celebration photo station available for candid photos with your family. *(Note: People who live in your household are allowed to join you at your appointment. One vehicle per graduate. Additional safety guidelines will be provided soon.)*

**Commencement Video**

**View it on cable TV – or online**

On Friday, May 14, 2021, at 11a.m. the college will be hosting a virtual viewing party for our virtual graduation! We invite you and your family and friends from around the nation and the world to join the HTC community in watching a wonderful and celebratory video together….but safely in your own space.

- On Friday, May 14, 2021, at 11 a.m., the HTC virtual graduation will be broadcast on the local cable-TV channel, CCX-TV. Also, it will be live-streamed online, which allows anyone, anywhere to watch. The virtual graduation will also be available for on-demand viewing after May 14.
- Names of approved graduates as of April 3 will appear in the virtual graduation along with brief speeches, photo collections, and more. Watch for additional information for ways that our graduates can contribute their videos and photos.

**More Information**
Graduates and the HTC Community will receive an email each Tuesday with more information about the events in May and opportunities to submit videos of celebration to potentially be included in the virtual graduation.

If you are graduating this Spring, the Application for Award form can be completed by clicking HERE. Complete the form by April 3, to ensure names will appear in the program and during the celebratory event on May 14.

Visit the HTC Graduation webpage for the most up-to-the-date event information.

HennepinTech.edu

A Minnesota State College

Hennepin Technical College is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer. This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities. Consumers with hearing or speech disabilities may contact us via their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.