

From: [Henry Shannon](#)
To: [Faculty](#); [Staff](#); [Adjunct Faculty](#); [Chaffeyans](#)
Subject: Finishing Spring 2020 Panther Strong
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2020 9:58:30 AM

Dear Chaffey College Graduates, Students, Faculty, Staff and Chaffeyans:

There are many milestones in life and many finish lines. I have found the phrase, “life isn’t a sprint, but a marathon,” to be appropriate to many life situations, but I would not apply it to this spring semester. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has felt like a sprint since mid-March.

A 100-mile-per-hour sprint for nearly 10 weeks. I imagine how breathless it has felt, whether you are a faculty member having to transform your in-person class to a virtual one, or a staff member trying to adjust doing your work in a new way. Maybe you are a student trying to learn, but online felt so different or, you are a graduate wanting to find the joy in reaching your commencement, despite not having a ceremony. I know how much has been asked of you. To be completely transparent, this pandemic has made me feel similarly, working to make decisions as your superintendent/president, in an unfamiliar atmosphere, filled with challenges. After all, the last pandemic to reference, was more than 100 years ago.

Today, I hope your sprint slows and you see the finish line in front of you. Take a moment to exhale. **You have completed the spring 2020 term.** A time in your life you will talk about years from now, about when everything changed due to COVID-19.

After this week settles, take a moment and recognize how strong you are. Think about how you managed, how you handled stress and change, yet persevered. For some of us, we missed having daily in-person interaction... others faced fear and anxiety over the unknown, and too many of us knew people who were infected with COVID-19. There is no scale for what one endured over another during this time – each experience is valid, and I see all of you.

Today, I congratulate each member of the Chaffey College family – we made it and we came out stronger.

To our graduates: congratulations on reaching this moment - you are Panthers for Life!

To our students: continue on your educational path – do not let any virus stand in the way of your goals!

To our incredible faculty and staff: you are exceptional and valued – thank you for continuing to improve lives through education!

Thank you,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

