Commencement Rain Plan

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Our hope is always to perform Commencement outside in front of historic Woodworth Chapel where students are welcome to bring an unlimited number of guests. However, in the event there is a forecast for severe weather, including heavy rain and/or thunder and lightning, we will need to move the ceremony indoors to the Kroger Gymnasium in the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health & Wellness Center at 10:00 a.m.

It is important to note that, once the Rain Plan is in place, the ceremony will be held indoors, even if the weather clears up before the ceremony. A final decision will be made by 12:00 noon on Friday, May 4, 2018 regarding the implementation of the rain plan.

With such a forecast, the Office of Campus Safety will send a Rain Plan Notice, via email to all students, faculty and staff using the College’s campus alert system. The Office of Institutional Advancement will work with the webmaster to update the College’s website and communicate with local television stations. Please check the website regularly for further information concerning the rain plan.

The following details will apply IF AND ONLY IF the Commencement ceremony is moved inside.

**Rain Plan Tickets**

To ensure a smooth transition in the event the ceremony is relocated, each graduate will be provided 8 rain tickets. It is the responsibility of the degree candidate to ensure these tickets are in the possession of those who will be using them on the morning of Commencement. EVERYONE MUST HAVE a rain ticket to enter Kroger Gymnasium. Rain tickets will be issued degree candidates when they pick-up their cap and gown. Due to the limited seating capacity of the Kroger Gymnasium and the need to adhere to safety and fire code regulations for indoor assemblies, ticketing is strictly enforced.

All graduates are encouraged to pick up their tickets in advance of Commencement so that they may have plenty of time to distribute them ahead of time to their guests. Those graduates who are unable to connect with their guests until the morning of Commencement are encouraged to pre-determine a plan for how they would meet in the event that the ceremony is moved indoors due to inclement weather. Due to the numerous last-minute logistical changes that will be required if the Commencement ceremony is moved indoors because of inclement weather, the College will be unable to operate a “will call” window for distributing tickets to guests. Lost tickets cannot be replaced.

**Doors Open:** 8:00 a.m. for all ticket holders. All others without tickets will be directed to the overflow sites, Holmes Auditorium and the Auditorium in the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Civil Rights Research Center.
**Graduates**
Graduates should report at 9:20 a.m. to Room 212A&B dressed in academic regalia, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic.

**Faculty**
Faculty should report at 9:20 a.m. to Room 223 dressed in academic regalia, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic. Family members and friends of faculty must enter at the general entrance.

**Trustees and Platform Party**
Trustees and platform participants should report to Room 223 at 9:20 a.m. for robing, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic. Family members and friends of trustees and platform members must enter at the general entrance.

**Golden and Silver Classes**
Golden and Silver Class Graduates should report to Room 202 at 9:20 a.m. for robing, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Fitness Center. Family members and friends of golden and silver graduates must enter at the general entrance.

**Choir**
Choir members should report at 9:20 a.m. to the Fitness Center in the choir robes and enter the handicap/crop-off entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center.

**Guests**
All family members and friends of the graduates as well as other guests are required to have a “Rain Plan” ticket to enter Kroger Gymnasium. Guests should enter at the rear of the building, which is designated the General Entrance. Seating will be granted on a first come, first seated basis. Guests will need to locate their seat and stay seated, to allow room for other guests entering the building. Immediately following the processional, any available seats will be released to the general public. Once capacity is reached, no one else will be allowed to enter Kroger Gymnasium.

**Overflow**
Guests without tickets may view the ceremony on a large screen display in Holmes Hall Auditorium (200 capacity) and the auditorium of the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Civil Rights Research Center (150 capacity). Tickets will NOT be required for admission into these venues; however seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Live Streaming**
For those not wishing to come to campus, a live stream of the Commencement ceremony will be available. The link will be provided soon.

**Parking**
The Office of Campus Safety will direct all parking for Commencement. The front of the Owens Health & Wellness Center will be designated for the President, Trustees, Golden and Silver Class graduates, and Platform Guests.