Good afternoon, Raptors.

Commencement week has arrived! I’m so excited to be entering this week with so many celebrations on the agenda. I hope you will take time to attend one or more of the student-centered events that elevate not only our students’ accomplishments, but those of our dedicated faculty and staff. The Dr. Harry Harden Jr. Student Academic Excellence, Honors, and Scholars Awards event are being held this afternoon, my Town Hall is tomorrow, and the Spring Closing Meeting is Wednesday.

In broader news, the College is continuing to encourage COVID-19 vaccination. There are many sites locally where you can register and some where you can walk up. Please see the county site for updates about locations and eligibility.

An additional opportunity from the county is an emergency broadband benefit funded by temporary federal relief program. Employees and students who meet income requirements—including Pell grant recipients—can get a special $50 per month discount on their Internet services.

There is a Pop-up Pantry on Wednesday, May 19, on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

You are probably hearing many different types of guidance around health protocols nationally and statewide. The College is continuing to follow county metrics closely as we consider our next steps. You’ll hear more as my senior leadership, the Coronavirus Advisory Team, and I assess the multiple metrics that guide our decision making. Health and safety continue to be our highest priority.

In this week that we celebrate students, let me also celebrate you—for all you have done during these challenging times to help students keep their educations on track.