



# Whitman Today

Monday, June 1, 2020

## Celebrating the Class of 2020



Members of the Class of 2020 shared messages of gratitude and excitement—and took a moment to be a little bit silly—during [Whitman College's 134th Commencement](#) on Sunday, May 24, 2020.

But rather than doing it on the stage in front of the Memorial Building, graduating seniors had the opportunity to share their parting thoughts in short video clips in the college's first virtual commencement ceremony. [Read the full story about this year's Commencement ceremony.](#)

## Coronavirus News

The [Walla Walla County Department of Health](#) reported one new coronavirus case in the past week. Of the total 109 confirmed cases, 104 residents are now recovered.

As Walla Walla moves into [Phase 2 of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's Safe Start economic reopening plan](#), the college's Coronavirus Task Force is working on gradual return-to-work processes and protocols in accordance with guidelines outlined by the state. The guidelines for Phase 2 include the recommendation that office workers who are still able to telework continue to do so. Please do not return to work until you hear from your supervisor, cabinet member, or Human Resources that it is safe for you to do so. In the coming days, you will also receive more information about new coronavirus-related safety requirements in your work area.

[Whitman's Coronavirus Info Center](#)

### A Letter to All Staff

As we come to the end of our 2019-2020 academic year, the Staff Advisory Council would like to thank you all for your incredible hard work during the COVID-19 crisis. Through it all, we've come together as a community to move forward. We appreciate the leadership and resilience of the cabinet and the quick response to Gov. Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. We recognize the efforts across campus to maintain communication and connection as we work remotely and through these difficult times.

As we, as a council, work to strengthen ourselves, we want to remind you all that we are here for you.

Thank you,  
Your Staff Advisory Council

### THANK YOU!

You're essential.



We're grateful.

## Announcements

### Academic Calendar for Fall 2020

The President's Cabinet has approved the faculty recommendation to begin the fall semester one week early, starting on Aug. 24, 2020, and finishing before Thanksgiving. This would allow us to minimize travel back and forth from campus and reduce potential coronavirus spread. [The Fall 2020 Academic Calendar is now posted online.](#) Please note the changes to move-in, orientation, fall break (canceled for 2020), and other events.

### Post Office Summer Hours

Beginning June 1 the campus post office will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To pick up mail, come to the Park St. side doors for assistance.

### Premera Offers Free Identity Protection Services

Premera now offers free identity protection services to active Premera members, and their dependents, with a medical plan. To take advantage of this free service, log in to your account at [premera.com](#). Click on "my account" in the upper right side of your screen. Select "account settings" in the drop down menu. Scroll down to the "free credit monitoring services" and click "sign up today" to begin the process. You will see two options: IdentityWorks Credit 1-Bureau (for members 18 years or older) and IdentityWorks Minor Plus (for members under the age of 18 years). Please [email Human Resources](#) with any questions.

## Happening This Week

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

1 p.m. [Science at Home Video Information Meeting](#)  
*Learn about creating videos that inspire kids of the Walla Walla Valley to have fun exploring science.*

### THURSDAY, JUNE 4

12 p.m. [Home Alone Conversation Group for Employees](#)  
*A weekly virtual meeting for faculty and staff who are working from home, alone. This is an open, drop-in style group.*

[More Upcoming Events](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu).

## Parting Shot



Whitman students and Science Outreach coordinator Heidi Chapin explore fun and simple experiments using common household ingredients in the new [Science at Home video series for children.](#)

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed weekly to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time. Previous newsletters can be found on the [Whitman Today archive website.](#)

To submit items, email [whitmantoday@whitman.edu](mailto:whitmantoday@whitman.edu). The deadline for submissions is 12 p.m. Friday for the following week's newsletter.



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