



UND plans virtual Homecoming as pandemic concerns lead to cancellation of in-person events

Grand Forks (8.7.2020) — The University of North Dakota Alumni Association & Foundation (UNDAAF) has canceled in-person Homecoming events originally planned for October 5-10 due to the dangers presented by the coronavirus pandemic.

“This was a difficult decision,” said UNDAAF CEO DeAnna Carlson Zink, “but the health and safety of our alumni and the community were the deciding factors. We know our alumni, students and the Grand Forks community love Homecoming, but we cannot safely give them the experience they have come to expect.”

The decision was made in consultation with the UNDAAF Executive Committee, UND President Andrew Armacost, UND Athletics Director Bill Chaves and public health experts.

“Many Homecoming events, whether for students or alumni, involve large gatherings held inside, which makes social distancing nearly impossible.” said Sara Garland, UNDAAF Board President and a 1968 and 1972 graduate of UND. “Given the restrictions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and discussions with officials at UND, it seemed prudent to cancel those events to protect the well-being of our alumni family and the UND community.”

Those scheduled to receive Sioux Awards and Young Alumni Achievement Awards at the annual Sioux Awards Banquet will instead be honored at Homecoming 2021. The UND Letterwinners Association Hall of Fame Banquet has also been postponed with the 2020 inductees to be honored next year. Homecoming 2021 is scheduled for October 18-23.

While in-person events are canceled, the UNDAAF is looking at ways to host virtual Homecoming events.

“We’re excited for the opportunity to create new and innovative experiences as we adjust our Homecoming plan to stay connected with our alumni and friends across the country,” said Brooke Conlin, UNDAAF Director of Events.

Updates on virtual events can be found at UNDalumni.org/homecoming.

This announcement only relates to Homecoming events sponsored by the UNDAAF. The Homecoming 2020/Hall of Fame football game is still scheduled, at this moment, to take place on October 10.

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