# Online event experiences & graduation plans

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Takeaways from webinars & experience

- > Attention spans in a virtual environment are less than half of what they are at a live event!
  - Clearly lay out your goals & strategies
  - Take time to understand your audience





Your audience is one click away from leaving

- > Ensure your message is short and succinct
- > Not everyone is good at Zoom
- > Control the flow of the event
- > Offer virtual community engagement
- > Offer collaborative tools



Lighting, surprises & staging: typical cues don't exist!

- > Use a dynamic MC
- > Engage audience intermittently
  - Gamification
  - Q&A, polling
  - Voting
  - Discussion rooms
- > Treat your presentation like a broadcast tv show
  - Bumpers & stingers
  - Animated backgrounds
  - Voice-overs
  - Change in location



#### Build your team & rehearse!

- > Who will execute the event & what are the required roles?
  - Emcee?
  - Speaker coach?
  - Virtual stage manager?
  - Someone to manage Q&A?
- > Rehearse!
  - Presenters
  - Graphics & video
  - Clear audio



## **Graduation plans and more...**

Maintaining engagement & affinity of constituents

#### Commencement

- Celebration box
- Grad yard signs
- Cap & gown filter for photos
- Individual Recognition via digital slides
- Faculty/staff applause moment









## **Graduation plans and more...**

#### Maintaining engagement & affinity of constituents

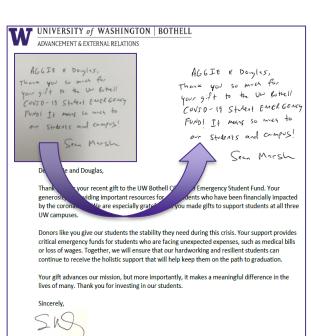
#### > Advancement

- "Handwritten" thank you notes
- Cowbells for front-line workers
- Donor thank you: Tiktok inspiration
- Small group chats: Donor/Faculty zoom chats
- One on one: Alumni/Faculty discussions
- UW Bothell alumni networking resource









Acting Vice Chancellor of Advancement & External Relations



## **Graduation plans and more...**

PIVOT! Look at what others are doing

- > Tara Brown:
  - Tuesdays with Tara photography tips; general humor and lightheartedness
- > Free, Free, Free:
  - Offer resources and services that will drive people to your website, virtual event, etc
- > Museum virtual tours
- > Balloon Designers







#### Resources

- > Commencement (or individual recognition ideas)
  - MarchingOrder <a href="http://info.marchingorder.com/">http://info.marchingorder.com/</a>
  - StageClip <a href="https://stageclip.com/">https://stageclip.com/</a>
  - ProPics Processional & Mosaic <a href="https://www.universityofwashingtonclassof2020.com/">https://www.universityofwashingtonclassof2020.com/</a>
  - BalloonDesigners <u>BalloonDesigners.com</u>
- > Conferences & Webinars
  - iModules <a href="https://tinyurl.com/iModulesEvents">https://tinyurl.com/iModulesEvents</a>
  - PSAV Virtual Events Day <a href="https://tinyurl.com/PSAV-Events">https://tinyurl.com/PSAV-Events</a>

#### > High production virtual events

- Veekast <a href="https://veekast.com/">https://veekast.com/</a>
- Swoogo <a href="https://get.swoogo.com/virtual-events">https://get.swoogo.com/virtual-events</a>
- > Digital Whiteboards
  - Mural <a href="https://www.mural.co/">https://www.mural.co/</a>
  - Explain Everything <a href="https://explaineverything.com/">https://explaineverything.com/</a>
- > Other
  - 42Chat automated chat bot <a href="https://www.42chat.com/">https://www.42chat.com/</a>
  - Great Little Box Company <a href="https://www.glbc.com/">https://www.glbc.com/</a>
  - PakMail Bellevue <a href="https://www.pakmail.com/stores/pak-mail-of-bellevue">https://www.pakmail.com/stores/pak-mail-of-bellevue</a>



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