An email with the subject “Cap and Gown Emergency” came through to Jennifer Suchan, University Registrar, around lunchtime on May 5th. The email came from Megan Hills, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Iowa Wesleyan University. For those who don’t know, Iowa Wesleyan University has had a difficult year and will be closed permanently on May 31.

Megan shared that they had been working with their commencement attire provider, and all week the provider indicated the attire would arrive on time for their commencement ceremony on May 6th. However, as of May 5th, they had no attire. She contacted Iowa State asking for help locating 110 bachelor’s gowns and 20 master’s gowns so this graduating class could have the experience they have worked so hard for and truly deserve. The Graduation Team and the ISU Bookstore came together to see what they could do, working together, they were able to provide 40 bachelor’s gowns and mortar boards and 20 masters gowns and tams. Additionally, they made numerous calls to colleagues around the state throughout the afternoon to help them fill the remaining gap.

Through exceptional teamwork and collaboration, all the Iowa Wesleyan University graduates were equipped with their well-deserved graduation cap and gown to walk at their commencement ceremony.