

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Lego, the world's largest toy company doesn't just sell toys; it strives for the "development of children's creativity through playing and learning." Lego designs compelling sets of blocks that can be assembled in a myriad of ways to inspire creativity and innovation. My young grandson could be their ambassador; his enthusiasm is contagious as he explains his newest creation and proudly presents his work of art. Putting the pieces together challenges you to look at all objects, shapes and possibilities while being creative and purposeful. I see similarities between the challenges presented by trying to connect Legos in the correct order, and in our group efforts as we work together to create an innovative and sound plan for our upcoming summer and fall academic quarters. We are carefully connecting many component pieces of this plan.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, Tuesday May 12, 2020 to continue developing plans to gradually bring more faculty, staff and students back to campus once the Executive Orders are officially lifted in Illinois. This evening, the State of Arizona has announced that the Stay-At-Home order will be lifted as of May 16, 2020, while requiring clear social distancing and other public health requirements.

Midwestern University planning focuses on the educational needs of our students both on the academic campus and in our clinic operations that teach our students in a very important setting. We also are committed to providing for the health care needs of the many patients that depend on Midwestern University for their care. To address the many facets of our planning, we have developed key subcommittees that are interdependent on each other to provide us with a comprehensive and sound plan.

#### COVID-19 Subcommittees

- The 37 members of the COVID-19 Response team are working on an integrated plan that addresses the safety and security needs of all faculty, staff and students. Key factors under consideration are appropriate screening protocols to bring employees and patients back to the campus and clinics, the ongoing sanitization of all our facilities, communication and media initiatives, clinic strategic plans, and personal protective equipment inventory.
- Resources on which the committee relies include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standards, State Public Health Guidelines, OSHA regulations and Executive Orders. These documents are frequently updated and are reviewed daily for any updates or changing standards.
- Regular communication is planned once the new protocols are established and approved. These will be highlighted in future Evening Updates.

While the pandemic has caused great hardship to many families facing unemployment, their loss of economic security and the tragic loss of loved ones, it has also made organizations throughout the country to innovate and change as they face new challenges. As I reflect back on the past two months, I have been impressed with the resilience and innovation of our faculty and staff. For this I

am grateful. I am so fortunate to have a campus community that is patiently waiting and supporting all of us as we creatively assemble our next steps, one block at a time.

Be well.

Dr. G.