

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Although not an official holiday, many of you will be spending your weekend in preparation for the 55th Super Bowl National Football League championship game this Sunday, February 7, 2021. Even those who may not be regular football fans tend to watch the Super Bowl to enjoy the festivities of the day, which include watching new product commercials while munching on buffalo wings, chili, pizza, dipping sauces, and lots of potato chips. May all of you cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs or the Tampa Bay Buccaneers fans have a fun-filled afternoon.

I am pleased to report that the number of COVID-19 cases this week at Northwestern University has continued to decline. On the Downers Grove Campus, we have 1 positive case from the faculty and staff, and 5 positive cases from our students. On the Glendale Campus, we have 3 positive faculty and staff cases and 11 positive student cases. This is such important news as we continue working on our plans to administer the COVID-19 vaccines to our registered clinic patients and others deemed eligible by DuPage County, Illinois and Maricopa County, Arizona. Five separate task force teams are diligently working on the logistics to train our personnel, register eligible patients, and deliver an efficient, positive vaccination experience at our campus clinics. More details will be forthcoming once finalized.

5 – Point Plan for Diversity and Inclusion

I continue to be very impressed with the ongoing outreach and wide range of activities found within our campus community as we all strive to bring greater diversity and inclusion to our colleges and programs. Many of the colleges are implementing changes to curriculum, recruitment and policies thanks to the work all of you began over six months ago. Thank you for maintaining this momentum. New and engaging activities, along with a reminder of this weekend's movie screening, are listed below:

- To broaden our understanding of individuals who stutter, we currently have 159 members of our community registered for the exclusive private screening of the inspiring documentary, "My Beautiful Stutter," starring Mariska Hargitay, Peter Hermann, Paul Rudd and George Springer. If you would still like to register, please use the link below: https://online.midwestern.edu/public/eventreg.cgi?event_no=7380
- On Saturday, February 6, 2021, The Downers Grove College of Health Sciences Student Council will host a virtual Special Recreation Valentine's Dance, organized by the class officers for PsyD 2024 & 2025. These students have been working hard to develop a play list, craft activities, dance videos, and recruit volunteers. For this dance, they reached out to two local and special recreation agencies SEASPAR (South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation) & WDSRA (Western DuPage Special Parks and Recreation). These agencies are advertising this event to their members, who sign up to participate through their Special Recreation Association. Participants range in age from 18 to 65. This year, we will host the dance virtually using WebEx with 80 participants from both agencies; about 25 students will also join the fun. In addition to the dancing, we will host a breakout room, staffed by a student, where participants can work on crafting projects that were mailed to them in advance. Information about these agencies can be found at the following websites: <https://www.seaspar.org/> and <https://www.wdsra.com/>.

- In honor of Black History Month, Poet and spoken word artist, Ashlee Haze will be performing virtually for both Downers Grove and our Glendale Campuses. This event is open to all Students, Faculty, and Staff. Ashlee Haze will be live on WebEx Thursday February 11, 2021 at 6:30pm CST/5:30pm MST. Details and link can be found on [MWUpulse](#) and will be sent out via email to both campuses. Ashlee Haze is an award-winning poet and spoken word artist, who resides in Atlanta as part of the poetry slam circuit.

I hope all of you have a fun Super Bowl weekend; regardless of which team wins, I hope your weekend is filled with your favorite foods, family and close friends.

Be well.

Dr. G.