

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

After working on a major equipment improvement to our campus technology for the past three years, the implementation of the new hardware is going to take place tomorrow, December 5, 2020 and should be completed on Sunday, December 6, 2020. While this will temporarily affect our ability to use the computers, internet, and phones on both the Glendale and Downers Grove campuses over the weekend, it will have an important long term and lasting impact on the dependability of our campus servers. I am grateful for the entire Information Technology Services team that will be working all weekend to make this a successful implementation. Please join me in thanking all of our Information Technology Service team members for their commitment to excellence in service.

The surge of COVID-19 cases seen around the entire country has affected the number of cases we have experienced this past week. I am once again asking all of you to be very cautious when you are doing holiday shopping, attending family gatherings and other activities. Wearing face masks, staying home if you are ill, and washing your hands should be second nature by now, and while everyone is feeling the fatigue of this pandemic, we need to stay healthy for each other and our loved ones at home. This past week we have 12 faculty and staff cases, 5 from the Downers Grove campus and 7 from the Glendale campus. We have 36 new student cases this week, 23 from the Glendale campus and 13 from the Downers Grove campus. While these numbers seem high, I have included a link showing that they are still much lower than the numbers in our surrounding communities over the past week, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention case data tracker. This information can be located at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases.casesper100klast7days>. After contact tracing, we are not experiencing exposures that occur on campus, but rather at off-campus events and activities.

#### 5 Point Plan for Greater Diversity and Inclusion

- Please join the Finance Department Diversity and Inclusion Task Force in helping others during this holiday season. They are holding a coat drive in partnership with One Warm Coat (Non-Profit Organization). They are collecting new or gently worn (no holes or stains) coats. The gently worn coats should be clean and wearable. Please view the One Warm Coat website at <https://www.onewarmcoat.org/>. The coat drive will run from **Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** through **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. Faculty, staff and students can drop off a donation at the Student Financial Services located in Haspel Hambrick Hall, Suite 102. Please contact Nathan Ernst in advance to let him know that you are dropping off your coat(s). Mr. Ernst can be contacted via email at [nernst@midwestern.edu](mailto:nernst@midwestern.edu) or by phone at ext. 6342. At the Downers Grove Multispecialty Clinic, coats can be donated in Room 276. Please contact Sandra Leonard or James Terrell in advance to let them know that you are dropping off your coat(s). Ms. Leonard can be contacted via email at [sleona@midwestern.edu](mailto:sleona@midwestern.edu) or by phone at ext. 4997 and Mr. Terrell via email at [jterre@midwestern.edu](mailto:jterre@midwestern.edu) or by phone at ext. 4744.
- On the Glendale campus, the Finance Department Diversity and Inclusion Task Force is holding a holiday canned food drive. All donations can be dropped off in Barrel III, inside Suite 200, on Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. All non-perishable food donations will be going to the local Foothills Food Bank and Resource Center.

This weekend provides all of us a nice opportunity to spend a few days without reading and answering emails, and worrying about getting back to your colleagues in a timely manner. Maybe you can take time to reflect on how different our lives were when we only had landline phones, and never spent

hours on end looking at a computer screen. We have all had a tumultuous 2020, and I am hopeful that this coming weekend allows everyone to step back, do more holiday planning and spend relaxing time with your loved ones. Have a wonderful weekend.

Be well.

Dr. G.

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