

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Over the past six weeks, I have been heartened to see the spirit of humanity shining through in thoughtful and generous ways. We have especially seen this kindness directed toward the many health care workers who have affirmed my belief that they are truly health care heroes. In 2013, Midwestern University received a Health Care Hero Award from the Arizona Business Journal for our contribution of bringing health care education to the state. The program headline for this event was "Celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of the unsung heroes in our community." The times have certainly changed. Health Care Heroes are now at the forefront of our attention and certainly deserving of our admiration.

The health, safety and well-being of the healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers have gained national attention. Following the historic collaborative salute of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy, the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds are paying tribute to those battling COVID-19 by their Aerial Demonstrations. The first show of appreciation for the thousands of doctors, nurses, first responders and essential workers serving on the front line occurred in New York this past Wednesday. A similar demonstration will take place this coming weekend over Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Atlanta. These efforts are called "America Strong," as a show of unity and support for the men and women keeping our communities safe.

A similar tribute will take place tomorrow over the metro-Phoenix area. Over a dozen U.S. Air Force and Arizona National Guard jets will conduct a flyover on May 1, 2020 beginning at 3:10 P.M., to honor all health care and others responding to public needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Luke Air Force Base officials say 15 jets will begin the 50 minute tribute, starting in Buckeye, and then fly over Luke A.F.B. Litchfield Park, Surprise, Waddell, Goodyear, Tolleson, Phoenix, Tempe before they fly over Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Scottsdale, Deer Valley, Glendale, Peoria, Sun City West and El Mirage and end at Luke A.F.B. The flight pattern takes this tribute directly over our Glendale Campus. Residents are asked to view the flyover from their homes, places of employment, and of course for those on campus while maintaining social distancing. I hope the next city to see this display of resolve and pride is in the Chicago area where many cases of COVID-19 have been identified.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, April 30, 2020 to discuss the upcoming summer quarter as well as policies and steps being taken to protect faculty, staff, and students once on campus operations resume.

Announcements

- The Governor of the State of Arizona has extended the Stay-At-Home order to remain in effect until May 15, 2020.
- We do not have any new positive cases of COVID-19 amongst our faculty, staff or student. This is good news.
- Midwestern University has successfully obtained permission from our specialized accreditation groups: the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, Commission on Dental Accreditation, Accreditation Council on Optometric Education, American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, American Psychological Association, Council on Podiatric Medical Education, Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants, Commission

on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. We are still missing one approval.

- We are applying to the Department of Education to permit Midwestern University to continue the temporary use of distance and online learning through the summer quarter, if necessary. This good news is significant for our faculty, staff and students. We expect to begin awarding Federal Student Aid Packages, including living expenses, as scheduled.

It is my sincere hope that the weary and fatigued healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers, including many here at Midwestern University, find peace and pride as the nation recognizes the hard work and dedication everyone has exhibited during these difficult days. So many of you have worked hard and long hours caring for your families while working from home and from campus; you deserve a wonderful tribute. The nation and I salute your dedication.

Be well.

Dr. G.