

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

“One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.” As the COVID-19 Response Team continues to plan for our gradual increase in clinic patients and welcomes more of you back to working on campus, I believe the quote from Marie Curie could not be more accurate. For every new plan we develop, for every question we answer, there is still another detail to add and question to be addressed. I am grateful for all of our COVID-19 Response Team members who meet daily and are working tirelessly, including many weekends, as we move forward in new and innovative ways.

Today is the first day of Graduation Week. It began with a touching, emotional “drive by parade”, by our graduates from the College of Veterinary Medicine, who planned and staged the early morning event to thank the faculty and staff for their support over the past four years. As a long line of cars descended onto campus, horns were honking, balloons and signs were hung from the car windows, and the faculty and administration, wearing their regalia, clapped and waved as the parade moved along campus. There were tears of joy and some tears of sadness that reminded all of us of the importance of the relationship shared by faculty and staff with their students.

Last Thursday evening, the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine had a virtual awards ceremony through WebEx, where graduates shared congratulatory stories and their post-graduation plans, while hosting a remembrance of student Nasser Koucheiki with his family. The College of Health Sciences also held a virtual banquet where awards and celebrations were shared with classmates. While these do not make up for the real in-person events, they highlight how creative and responsive the graduates are in making the best of difficult days. Our other colleges are planning virtual events and special communications with graduates during this Graduation Week.

The Colleges’ Facebook pages are already getting numerous pictures and posts as graduates are actively talking with their classmates through social media.

Announcements

- One employee has tested positive for COVID-19. While there was limited exposure to other colleagues, those who had any contact have been personally notified to remain home for the 14-day recommendation period. Please note, the identity of the individual who has tested is very confidential. Names and details cannot be shared with others, in order to protect an employee’s right to privacy.
- Coming this week, a new online training program will be provided; it will remind everyone of our safety standards and new procedures and expectations that will assist us in meeting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health department standards. The training will include guidance on the steps you will need to take each day to confirm you do not have a fever and can pass a brief online health survey. Once the training program is active, you will receive a link to access it.

It is hard to believe we are entering week nine of this public health crisis. The past days have certainly been filled to the brim with moments challenging us in new and different ways; increasing collaboration between the colleges, departments bonding together to provide new services, and creative programs providing security for our faculty and staff. While I would love to tell you we are ready to swing wide

the doors and bring faculty, staff, students and patients back in large numbers, we are not quite there yet, and we need to continue to focus on “what remains to be done”.

Be well.

Dr. G.