

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

We are in this together. We all have to do our part to keep one another safe during this pandemic. Everyone has an important role to play as we look forward to the start of our Fall 2020 quarter. Some classes will be offered online, others in person with synchronous broadcasts to students outside the classroom. We have been testing our technology, and working endlessly to improve every student's learning experience.

My special thanks to the faculty and staff who have already returned to campus; your feedback regarding your experiences has been valuable as we move forward. More than ever we realize that the virus isn't going away anytime soon, so we are planning and managing our campus community for the medium or long-term impact of COVID-19. Our commitment to our students is our major focus while preserving the health and well-being of our faculty, staff and students. We constantly monitor our community for an increase in COVID-19 case activity. Should we experience a spike during the fall quarter, we will quickly transition to online courses once again.

I am happy to report that this past week we had only one employee on the Glendale Campus, and one student on the Downers Grove Campus test positive for COVID-19. These individuals have not been on campus. We continue to quarantine any member of the community who travels from any location considered a COVID-19 "hot spot", and we are not resuming regular business travel. These measures are being continued as we all do our part to adjust to this new normal.

We are asking for a commitment from all Midwestern University Students to help us protect themselves, as well as our faculty and staff members who have been preparing for the arrival of incoming students and returning students. This commitment is in the form of a pledge, or attestation that they will be a responsible member of our health care community. We are asking all students to read and agree to and comply with this new policy. All students will be prompted to sign this pledge when they next login into their student portal.

"As a member of the Midwestern University academic community I am training to be a responsible, caring healthcare provider and I commit to placing other's health and my own as a priority. I hereby pledge to abide by the COVID-19 prevention policies and Student COVID-19 Protocol provided to me by the University in order to help ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for all faculty, staff, students, and patients of Midwestern University.

Further, by clicking the I AGREE button, I pledge to: (1) maintain the principles of wearing a face covering; (2) maintain proper physical distance at all times; (3) observe good hand hygiene; (4) take my temperature daily; (5) monitor my health for COVID-19 related symptoms; and (6) abide by these principles both on- and off-campus, at all times."

Call to Action for Greater Diversity and Inclusion

The Finance Department, which encompasses Business Services, Student Financial Services, Registrar's Office, and Clinic Finance, has established a Finance Department Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This committee's goal is to further promote a supportive environment that allows all team members to thrive and succeed in the workplace, recognizing that the pursuit of excellence intersects with a commitment to diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the University. This committee will seek to assist

staff members with embracing diversity, improving communication, and helping transform the Finance Department into a more inclusive workplace. They have identified 3 core objectives:

- Action - Listen, learn, and share in small group discussions and experiences which promote cultural awareness and diversity.
- Mentorship and Community Involvement – provide opportunities to mentor, educate, and serve underserved individuals within community.
- Scholarship and Fundraising activities to be coordinated with other campus departments.

The Office of University Relations, which includes the Offices of Admissions, Communications, and Development & Alumni Relations, supports the goal of expanding and improving the University's global efforts to celebrate and enrich the diversity of our campuses. These departments will strive to work collaboratively with colleagues in other administrative and academic departments to expand efforts in student recruitment, fundraising, alumni programs, events, and marketing to reach and address more diverse audiences. To accomplish these collective goals, they have undertaken the following action plans in the summer of 2020:

- Develop relationships with area high schools with more diverse student populations.
- Increase outreach to minority publications and sponsor minority organizations such as NAMME, SNPhA, and SNMA.
- Improve diversity of Alumni Councils and their programming, and begin recruiting additional members to the new Alumni Diversity Mentoring Group.
- Improve admissions process for minority applicants, by appointing one counselor at each campus to manage and coordinate the minority recruitment efforts.
- Produce additional videos featuring alumni from each college/program to be used as part of the admissions interview process.

The challenges we face together are complex and often difficult. I know many of you are concerned about returning to campus. I hope the following short video will answer many of your questions regarding the many steps we have taken to keep everyone safe and secure. My thanks to University Relations and Media Resources for producing this nice and informative "Return to Campus" video. <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/pg4u7> .

Be well and have a wonderful weekend.

Dr. G.