

From: List Server of ESU Campus-Community List

Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:19 PM

Subject: Message from President Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D. - March 13, 2020

During the past few days, all of us have been responding to the unpredictability of COVID-19 in order to keep our students, faculty and staff safe while planning for the educational continuum that our students and their families expect and deserve. In the days, weeks, and perhaps months to come, we anticipate the delivery of coursework, the scheduling of meetings and events and our interaction with others will be drastically different than we've ever experienced before. To that end, we have a great deal to plan and to accomplish in order for us to be successful in our efforts.

As you are aware, the coming week will be a busy one for all of us, despite the fact that the majority of our students will not be on campus or in our classrooms. Our faculty will be working with the Provost, the deans and other personnel to develop alternate forms of delivery of their courses in the now likely event that remote delivery of classes will be required. All university-related International travel (including study abroad) and travel outside of Pennsylvania for students, faculty and staff representing ESU at meetings, conferences, athletic events, etc., is suspended indefinitely. Our residence halls will remain open to house a limited number of students including student-athletes, international students, and those who live on campus and are actively engaged in student teaching unless otherwise notified by the institutions they serve. We are also housing a few students who are dealing with housing insecurity. Other staff members will be working with their respective vice presidents to create provisional plans to serve our students remotely if necessary. I will continue to communicate directly with each division on a daily basis to work through concerns as they arise, as quickly as we can.

We have developed a webpage (esu.edu/health-and-wellness/coronavirus) where we will post all updates regarding ESU and COVID-19. Please reference this site regularly and recommend the site to others. We have also added a hotline (570-4222-5555) for students, faculty, staff and parents to call if they wish to speak to someone in person.

Make no mistake - this is a crucial time for East Stroudsburg University, for Pennsylvania, and for our country. Although many events, concerts, professional meetings, etc. have been cancelled, it is extremely telling that two American lifelines have made major decisions – the NBA season has been suspended and NCAA March Madness has been cancelled – indicating the severity of our challenges. I feel for all of our students who are being disappointed because of this challenge. Some can't come back to jobs or internships, others have graduate assistantships that are disrupted, and four of our student-athletes who were to compete in NCAA national championships were notified to return home immediately. I urge all personnel to do their utmost to assist and to be flexible and creative in accommodating the many difficulties in the days to come. Be kind and as helpful as possible to each other. We say ESU is the innovation university of the State System and we now have the opportunity to prove it! My expectation is for all faculty and staff to continue to fulfill their job responsibilities, with as much creativity as possible, until further notice. We must work as a true Warrior Family to get through this. Thank you.

Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D.
President

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