

**From:** Brenda Friday <BFriday@po-box.esu.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 12:47 PM

**Subject:** Message to the Campus Community from President Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D. - March 16, 2020

To The ESU Campus Community,

As we continue all of our efforts to keep our campus open and enable our students to progress during this pandemic, **ESU will transition all classes (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral) to online instruction for the remainder of the semester** for the health and safety of our campus and our students. All online courses that were scheduled to begin today, March 16, will resume as planned and continue as scheduled. All remaining classes will transition to online delivery as of March 23. This includes courses offered at our Lehigh Valley Center and in collaboration with Northampton Community College. All experiential learning assignments such as internships, externships, clinicals, labs, and student teaching assignments are suspended as well. Additionally, please be advised that **all University and community events scheduled to take place on our campus are canceled indefinitely**, this includes larger gatherings such as academic convocation and the student research and creative activity symposium. Information regarding spring commencement will be forthcoming.

Faculty will be working this week to prepare the transition from face-to-face instruction to online instruction, including ways to help students catch up with any missed instruction. These faculty will work to transition off-campus study to alternate learning experiences. At this time, we are not considering extending the semester. Faculty will continue to receive additional updates from Provost Bruno as our plans progress. Please be directed for postings at the Provost home page at [Office of the Provost](#) scroll to academic continuity planning.

We will be asking all students living in residence halls to remove their belongings and check out of the residence halls by Saturday, April 4. Students will receive additional information about the move-out process from Residential and Dining Services later today. Dr. Gene Kelly, dean of student life, ([ekelly2@esu.edu](mailto:ekelly2@esu.edu)) will also provide information about options for students who need to remain in university housing due to emergency situations and the support systems we will continue to offer to students; campus housing will be limited and only available for extenuating circumstances.

To be clear, **the university is not closing**. Faculty and staff members will report to work as scheduled to continue efforts to restructure classes and events to follow recommended health guidelines. Most business offices will continue to remain fully operational, department managers are taking measures to minimize person to person contact and facilities is taking additional measures to sanitized and disinfect areas. We continue to follow Governor Tom Wolf's directives regarding university-sponsored travel. We will be sharing additional information with employees as we continue to practice physical distancing for the health and safety of everyone.

Information about responses to the coronavirus continue to shift rapidly. Please visit the ESU's website (<https://www.esu.edu/health-and-wellness/coronavirus.cfm>) for updates and continue to rely on official sources like the Centers for Disease Control or the Pennsylvania Department of Health for information about the virus.

We are following guidance from the US and PA departments of education to determine the impact of this transition to total online instruction on student financials. Details of changes to student's accounts and financial aid will be provided in the coming days.

I know that these changes are drastic and affect so many members of our ESU family. Rest assured that all of us at ESU are working together to provide our students with a solid academic experience despite the disruption. I know that with your understanding and support, we will get through this. For now, we ask that you take all possible safety precautions for yourself, your family and your friends and remember, we are a Warrior family.

Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D.  
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