

From: List Server of ESU Campus-Community List

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 8:48 AM

Subject: Message update from President Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D. - March 18, 2020

To all members of our ESU community, friends and neighbors,

These are trying times for all of us. The past few weeks have seen the COVID-19 pandemic take over the daily routines we often take for granted. I hope this message finds everyone – our students, faculty, staff, their families and our University friends – safe and following the recommended guidelines set forth by our Governor Tom Wolf as we make our way through this difficult time of distancing and isolation.

During the Governor’s press conference last week, Governor Wolf announced an aggressive distancing plan for all public schools in Pennsylvania (K-12) by closing them for two weeks, through March 29. Many presumed that the Governor’s comments also included the 14 public Universities within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, including ESU. **Please know that East Stroudsburg University is not closed.** As a matter of fact, in the FAQ section of the Pennsylvania Department of Education webpage, it states that “In-person instruction is suspended at all PASSHE universities through March 29. Students and staff should consult their local university for more information.”

Please know that our faculty and staff are working tirelessly, making preparations to teach out the semester using online instruction and serving our students in other ways via technology. Yesterday, I instructed my leadership team to work with their staff to prepare as many personnel as possible to work remotely from home, in the best interest of our Warrior family and their families. Today, few staff and faculty are in their offices on the physical ESU campus. But the greater number of faculty and staff are connecting electronically to make sure that all operations at ESU are running smoothly and functioning to the best of our ability given the circumstances. Despite this national crisis, our number one priority is our students and their success. So to that end, we continue to operate in the best interest for our students to ensure they are able to continue their education in these unprecedented times.

In other good news, I’m happy to report that there are no cases of COVID-19 at East Stroudsburg University. We ask that you share this and the great news that ESU is open for business with anyone who might not know. We are proud WARRIORS, prepared to take on this challenge, staying strong and determined in all we do.

Marcia G. Welsh, Ph.D.

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