August 14, 2020 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As I write, we anticipate the arrival of a number of students to campus next week who will be serving as International Student Orientation Leaders, Resident Assistants, Residence Directors, and Orientation Leaders. From there, with these student leaders in place, we look forward to the move-in of our new and incoming first-year students next Saturday, followed by returning students August 23-25, Sunday through Tuesday.

I want to take a moment to highlight how our staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty as we prepare for the semester to begin. Much of the preparation work takes place behind the scenes, but I assure you it is not unnoticed or unappreciated. Our Facilities Management colleagues have prepared the campus for your arrival in unparalleled ways. The Student Life Office has taken on many new projects, including the monumental job of planning and implementing a completely new campus move-in process and a student Social Contract. The work of the Centre staff has been outstanding. This is an unprecedented moment in human history on a global scale, and it has truly taken the entire Centre village to plan, prepare for, and begin to implement all our preparations for what will truly be a memorable 13 weeks.

As time allows, I hope you will take a few minutes to watch this video message I recorded with a number of updates and important points about expectations for the reopening of campus (available HERE).

I would emphasize that while much about this pandemic is outside of our control, we have worked very hard to prepare for what we do have control over. When we designed the Social Contract for the fall that we thought best described our high expectations for behavior, it is worth noting that, to their credit, the students we worked with insisted that it take an even stricter and firmer tone. In fact, they also encouraged creating an anonymous Reporting Tool so that we can hold one another accountable.

Clearly, we all want this fall semester to work, and we are painfully aware that carelessness on the part of even a few can have a devastating effect. To monitor the health of everyone, we have completed our first round of testing, our pre-testing, and I want to make clear that students must not only complete this pre-test before arriving to campus but also upload the result to Moodle. If this is proving difficult, you must contact the Student Health Office.
immediately. Our library staff are also available to help research testing sites in your area and can be contacted at library@centre.edu.

After receiving a negative test result, please follow all the guidelines regarding taking precautions to prevent contact with the virus. If a student arrives on campus and tests positive for the virus, they will have to return home to learn remotely or will be isolated in Danville for the first weeks of the semester. For your own safety and that of others, please do everything you can to avoid exposure to the virus in the coming days as you prepare to return to campus. All of us who will be on campus must make preparations to continue practicing the Social Contract once you arrive at Centre. Any student who cannot abide by the Social Contract should not come back to campus this fall.

As always, please continue to visit our COVID-19 Information Center, which is updated on an almost daily basis. Next week we will be adding an activity report for testing to our new dashboard that will eventually include data about isolation and quarantine, which we assume will be a natural and inevitable part of the fall.

Finally, be assured that we are looking beyond your arrival to be prepared for the possible and unfortunate scenario in which the coronavirus presents a situation beyond our control that requires a return to remote learning. Health and safety influences every part of this scenario planning as well.

I wish you well as you make your final preparations for the fall semester.

Sincerely,
Milton