November 20, 2020 – Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

With final exams just days away, it's hard to believe that the fall semester is nearly finished. While December will provide time for a debrief of all our tactics for staying healthy in the midst of the pandemic, it's fair to say that we have accomplished what few other colleges have been able to. We kept positivity rates low, provided overall health and safety, added some fun and social life through activities sponsored by our Happiness Committee, and maintained high academic standards while living and learning together.

To support a strong finish, I direct your attention to our Coronavirus Information Center web page, to which we have added a helpful “safe return home” FAQ created by Kathe Andrews and Jamey Gay (see HERE). Nearly 400 student exit tests are also being conducted over the next few days as part of final health and safety efforts for the fall term.

As just announced, our testing protocol starting in January will be supported by a generous gift from Access Bio of 10,000 rapid antigen tests, with thanks to Centre parent Dr. Young Hong, a lead scientist at this New Jersey-based biotech company (see story HERE). This will allow for faster test results and add helpful efficiencies to this process.

The prospect of a vaccine or vaccines also looms on the horizon, and I was on a call earlier this week with Gov. Andy Beshear and other college and university presidents to learn about Kentucky's COVID-19 vaccination plan. We will bring all due diligence to cooperating with state health officials and develop a plan that will work for our community. All of this is very preliminary at this point, but I share the news so that each of us can begin thinking about how this could positively impact Centre College.

I know Dina and I are extremely grateful to everyone for welcoming us into this amazing college community, and despite masks and social distancing, we have felt your warmth, kindness, and support. We send the very best wishes to you and your families and friends.

Sincerely,
Milton