

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

In times of hardship, crisis and national disasters, one can always find a silver lining. I encountered this yesterday while pulling through a drive-through to order a bowl of soup for my quick lunch. As I thanked the restaurant attendant for working during these difficult times, I pulled out my wallet. The young man informed me that the car in front of me had bought my lunch! I was honestly stunned by this kind gesture. The restaurant worker shared with me that this is happening frequently every day. His comment was “everyone needs a friend, even if it is a total stranger.”

I remember the phrase, “character may be manifested in great moments, but it is made in small ones.” I see this as a reality on our campuses this week. I have seen faculty come together to do the impossible in a short time. I have seen support departments work together as never before, and I have seen more appreciation of colleagues and communication than most work weeks. What has strengthened our commitment as a team is helping our students stand strong as a health care community. Even if it is one small gesture at a time.

The COVID-19 Response Team held their daily briefing today, March 24, 2020. The following highlights our discussions:

Local and State Requests of Midwestern University

- Requests have been received from the Governor’s Office in the State of Arizona and the City of Chicago Emergency Medical Center to consider providing Third- and Fourth-Year Midwestern University Students to serve in temporary medical centers and clinics in critical need areas. These requests highlight the important role we fulfill in our communities.
- We are a “One Health” university and I have expressed an interest in providing interprofessional teams as resource groups to local and state agencies. We are in the process of determining if curriculum and other standards could be approved to provide students displaced for other clinical experience, with academic credit for their work at these sites. If opportunities become available, other students may wish to volunteer their assistance.
- All learning opportunities are being considered as we continue to assess the best way to address the growing crisis in our local communities. As more details become available, they will be shared in future Evening Updates.

Staying Connected

- As more faculty, staff and students are working and studying off campus, please utilize the many resources Information Technology provides to you. If you are unsure of how to connect to the Midwestern University e-mail, Canvas or testing software, please contact IT.
- Please use your Midwestern University E-mail account for all university related work and not personal accounts such as Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, AOL, MSN or other systems. We require you to use the Midwestern University system in email and file sharing in order to secure your data.

- Information Technology has increased the number of their team members available to assist everyone with their questions. They are a service department ready to help every member of our academic family.

Confidential Reporting of COVID-19 Related Testing and Cases

- Testing kits are very limited in this nation, and are being deployed to areas of critical need. Therefore, under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, only individuals with suspected exposure or those showing symptoms are eligible to be tested at this time. You need to have been recommended by a physician in order to be eligible to be tested in accordance with the CDC.
- If you are a faculty or staff member who has been recommended for a COVID-19 test, or a member of your immediate family has been tested, please confidentially report this to Ms. Amy Gibson, Director of Human Resources. Ms. Gibson can be reached at 630-515-7198.
- If you are a student who has been recommended for the COVID-19 test, or a member of your immediate family or roommate has been tested, please confidentially contact Dr. Ross Kosinski. Dr. K can be reached at 623-572-3329.

Please keep looking for a silver lining. Maybe it is in the love of your family and friends. Maybe it is in a sense of accomplishment with your colleagues. And maybe it is in the gift of a bowl of Chicken Noodle Soup.

Be well. Remember I care about all of you.

Dr. G.