

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

We have reached a very special milestone: Over 7000 faculty, staff, students, and clinic patients have been vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine since we opened Operation Hope, our Vaccination Centers. The majority of these appointments have already received their first dose and we're well underway to providing everyone with their second dose. On the Glendale Campus, we have begun a program of reaching out to small employers in our area and making the vaccine available to their employees, in addition to members of our own community.

In Downers Grove, we had to suspend operations in our Vaccination Center for two days this week, and next Monday and Tuesday of next week due to a shortage of vaccine. However, we are happy to report that DuPage County provided us with enough Moderna vaccine to resume our plans of vaccinating 140 patients each day, beginning Wednesday, March 31, 2021. We also have secured second doses for everyone that was previously vaccinated in our Downers Grove Center.

If you have submitted a request for a vaccination for yourself or an immediate family member at one of our Vaccination Centers, please check your e-mail spam folder. We are finding that e-mails from Phreesia with a link to complete registration and schedule an appointment are being sent to spam. Please check this source prior to resubmitting a request for an appointment.

All of our volunteers continue to share with us that working and helping in the Vaccination Centers is rewarding, as so many patients express their appreciation for all of our community outreach efforts. Many of our students have expressed sincere thanks for allowing them to provide first hand patient care as they visit and vaccinate many individuals. To everyone who has been part of this outreach, thank you for carrying on our mission.

While some states, including Arizona, have lifted restrictions regarding social distancing and mask wearing, Midwestern University will continue to adhere to the safety protocols previously implemented, which includes the mandatory wearing of face masks, and social distancing when possible. We need to carefully manage our protocols as we prepare for the upcoming summer and fall quarters. By taking a "wait and see" approach, before changing our policies, we are being cautiously optimistic that our measures will continue to see a reduction in the number of positive cases. Again this week, we did not have one case of COVID-19 among our faculty and staff and three student positive cases, two from the Downers Grove Campus and 1 from our Glendale Campus.

College Closing Ceremonies

While the traditional, official commencement ceremony will once again be virtual, we are inviting our graduating students to return to campus for an informal, meaningful closing celebration with their class. Students are invited to wear their graduation regalia, walk socially distanced through the auditorium and receive a scroll with their profession's oath. The graduates' names will be announced, and we will live stream this for families and friends to watch from home since they cannot be in attendance. These celebrations are planned to allow our graduates to be recognized for their achievements, see their classmates, and provide an opportunity for the faculty and staff to congratulate our graduates. Attendance at the closing ceremony is not mandatory. The virtual and official graduation date for all students is Friday, May 28, 2021.

The actual schedule is being finalized, but for planning purposes, the College of Dental Medicine - Illinois, Chicago College Optometry, and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine will hold their closing ceremonies on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. The College of Graduate Studies and the Downers Grove College of Health Sciences will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

On the Glendale Campus, the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine closing ceremony will be held on May 28, 2021 to allow these graduates enough time to relocate to their new residency programs. However, the College of Dental Medicine – Arizona, the Arizona College of Optometry, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine will hold their closing ceremonies on Thursday, June 3, 2021; and the College of Health Sciences, and the College of Graduate Studies will hold their closing ceremonies on Friday, June 4, 2021.

Military students will be commissioned immediately following their college's closing ceremony; these events will also be live streamed for family and friends to watch.

Diversity and Inclusion Activities

The Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Graduate Studies participated in a four hour seminar and review of methods to include more diversity education in the curriculum. Over 45 faculty members participated in this discussion and educational sessions.

Delta Dental of Illinois has created a named scholarship for students in the College of Dental Medicine – Illinois. The \$100,000 annual gift shall be distributed as two admissions scholarships of \$50,000 awarded each year to two incoming first-year students. Recipients must be underrepresented minorities as defined by the Health Resources and Service Administration which include American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

Students on the Glendale Campus will be celebrating “Week Around the World” and a virtual art gallery. Everyone is encouraged to register by March 31, 2021 and share their talents to help spread cultural diversity through entertainment, recipe exchanges and cooking demonstrations, all done virtually. Information is found at <https://midwesternu.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/90789>.

Volunteers at Operation Hope have commented many times that our Vaccination Centers are providing hope to many that have lived in fear over the past year. As I focus on the service we are providing others, I really believe Midwestern University is fulfilling our mission by “serving others to change lives.”

Be well.

Dr. G.