

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Together we have been on quite a journey. For many members of our academic community, it has been a journey that included sacrifice, uncertainty and fear for their own well-being and the health of family and friends. This journey has also reminded us of what we truly treasure and what is important in our lives: connecting with family, spending more time with children, managing special projects at homes, learning new hobbies, planting gardens and spending creative hours in the kitchen. Things are now beginning to change. Tomorrow, the State of Illinois moves to the next phase of opening restaurants, hair salons, and other small businesses, and the State of Arizona continues to gain significant momentum to expand more restaurant dining and the opening of shopping malls. I believe these actions are the beginning of renewed hope, seeing light at the end of this long dark tunnel.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, Thursday, May 28, 2020, to discuss our transition plans for our clinic operations, academic colleges, and support departments. As previously stated, we are gradually bringing more faculty and staff back to campus while keeping our faculty and staff safe and healthy as we manage the many complex issues we are facing in the weeks to come. Yesterday's Evening Update outlined the upcoming dates for our clinics and academic departments.

### Announcements

- As more of our faculty and staff transition from working at home to joining their colleagues on campus, our Human Resource and Risk Management departments have prepared an excellent Healthy and Safe Workplace Instructional Video. Beginning tomorrow morning, you should access your employee portal at <https://online.midwestern.edu>, where you will be presented with this required instructional opportunity. We think you will find the information pertinent and useful. It will focus on what Midwestern University is doing to protect everyone on campus and what you can do to help ensure your own safety and the safety of those around you. Please set aside 20 minutes to view this instructional video. I thank you in advance for your participation in our health and safety program.
- The faculty and staff special cafeteria meal program, implemented for all essential employees working in the clinics and academic campuses over the past thirteen weeks, will be continued until June 8, 2020. This will allow those on campus all next week to continue to get their meals both on campus and in the clinics.
- When the temporary essential faculty and staff cafeteria meal program ends on June 8, 2020, it will be replaced by a new pilot plan the "Faculty and Staff Dining Program" for cafeteria meals. Information regarding this new program will be shared next week once all the detailed implementation plans are completed. This new program will include both the Glendale and Downers Grove clinics and academic campuses. Many faculty and staff have appreciated the program and enjoyed receiving cafeteria meals during their lunch breaks.

I am so appreciative of the many members of this academic community who have worked tirelessly to continue to educate our students while caring for themselves and their families. We have been

developing our plans during dark and uncertain days, but I see a new light returning to the campuses in the many weeks ahead as we continue to care for one another.

Be well.

Dr. G.