



Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty,

8/28/2020

Since mid-March, **ALL OF US** have been anxiously waiting and with great hope for this moment. **MANY** have made sacrifices in an effort for **ALL OF US** to get to this day.

It is our pleasure to welcome our new students, staff, and faculty to the 2020-2021 academic year. We are also pleased to have our returning students, faculty, and staff back with us. Regardless of whether one is learning, teaching or serving on campus versus learning, teaching, or serving remotely, we are excited to be part of this special community after a long period of isolation.

As we begin, our prayer is that our challenges are minimal and our experiences are fulfilling. In order for this to occur, it will take the individual and collective commitment of **ALL** of us. It is worth noting:

- **STUDENTS** wanted to overwhelmingly return to Loras for a campus-based experience;
- Therefore, **FACULTY, STAFF, and ADMINISTRATORS** worked long hours throughout the summer to make sure **STUDENTS** could return for a campus-based experience;
- Many **STUDENTS and THEIR FAMILIES** expressed worry about their financial ability to return for a campus-based experience. **STAFF and ADMINISTRATION** worked long hours over the summer to raise and distribute funds to help ease financial burdens;
- Many **STUDENTS** shared concerns about campus-based and other opportunities lost as a result of the pandemic. In an effort to be responsive to these concerns, **STAFF and ADMINISTRATION** developed a plan to provide a tuition-free 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> semester beginning next Fall;
- Many **FACULTY and STAFF** expressed concerns about being able to avert job losses, provide care for their children, keep themselves and their families safe. Unlike many other institutions to date, **WE** were able to keep our entire workforce intact – no job losses, furloughs, pay-cuts, or lay-offs.

From this moment going forward, the responsibility to ensure a continuous campus-based experience is on **ALL OF US – STUDENTS, STAFF, FACULTY, and ADMINISTRATION**.

**WE** have issued numerous communications throughout the summer which clearly define expectations and the policies/guidelines that must be followed. **ALL OF US** have seen the many colleges and universities that have had to shift to a remote experience principally because individuals chose not to take their individual responsibilities seriously. In particular,

not following mask/personal distance requirements; hosting or attending large house parties and/or; frequenting busy/packed bars have served as the principal culprits.

Heading off-campus without honoring all the well-known health and safety standards not only puts you at risk, it puts others at risk. Further, failing to honor all that was noted above is selfish and in conflict with our [Catholic mission](#) and our [Loras Community for All](#) statement.

I wish to reiterate: **MANY** have made sacrifices in an effort for **ALL OF US** to get to this day. It is now on **ALL OF US** to make sacrifices so that we have a safe, healthy and uninterrupted semester. Let it be so.

#LorasTogether

**James E. Collins '84**  
President

**Mary Ellen Carroll, Ph.D.**  
Senior Vice-President

**Mike Doyle, J.D. '91**  
Treasurer / Vice President  
for Institutional Advancement

**Donna Heald, Ph.D.**  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs  
Academic Dean

**Art Sunleaf, Ed.D.**  
Vice President for  
Student Development

**Valorie Woerdehoff '82**  
Interim Director of Marketing  
and Communication