



Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

4/30/2020

As we end the month of April, I wanted to provide an update regarding the state of Iowa status, recent decisions, plans for the future, and accomplishments worth recognizing.

### Current COVID-19 State of Iowa Status:

In the state of Iowa, 1 out of every 76 individuals has been tested. There have been 34,494 negative cases and 6,843 confirmed cases. There are 2,176 individuals who have recovered and sadly, a total of 136 deaths.

In Dubuque County, 1,199 individuals have been tested; there are 102 confirmed cases and; 4 deaths.

### Summer Operations:

Since numerous states have yet to reach their peak cases to include Iowa, Loras regrettably plans to cancel all summer campus operations through the end of July – camps, housing, and events. We are doing so in an effort to proceed with the utmost caution, care and safety for all. Further, we will continue to honor and fulfill health professional guidelines.

### Summer 2020 Courses:

Summer can be a good time to make progress with completing general education requirements or courses required for your major. The majority of summer courses are being offered in an online format and space is still available in several courses.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that Loras has joined the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Online Course Sharing Consortium. Participation in the consortium allows Loras students the opportunity to enroll in online courses offered at CIC institutions across the country. We anticipate posting CIC Online Consortium courses in early May. Please look for that announcement.

### Fall 2020 Semester:

- Like several other colleges and universities, Loras plans to re-open all campus operations to include classroom delivery, co-curricular programming, residential living, and campus dining this Fall. Obviously, we will continue to heed and honor directives from federal and state governments along with the CDC and health professionals.
- In the weeks ahead, select faculty, staff, and administrators will continue to explore all potential safety and operational protocols to include:
  - Offering alternate class schedules and sequencing of course days to minimize class size
  - Reviewing campus housing, dining, and fitness center approaches
  - Using personal protective equipment (PPE) and temperature checks, as appropriate
  - Modifying visitor and facility access policies
  - Reviewing guidelines regarding informal and formal gatherings
  - As much as possible, affording work remote options for faculty/staff whose health concerns may be compromised
  - As much as possible, providing options for students whose health or immune conditions are compromised
  - Providing isolation or quarantine for those who may become infected with support from our campus and local health providers
- Loras demonstrated great resolve in transitioning and responding to the pandemic. Students were responsive; faculty were adaptive; staff were accommodating and; the community demonstrated an amazing collective resolve to make things work. I have never been more proud, but I have also never been more confident in our ability to begin the next academic year from a position of strength – no matter what the circumstances!

## Congratulations:

As I have shared previously, this is always a special part of the academic year even as students, staff and faculty face the challenge of finishing things strong. While we cannot gather together, I think it is important to take a moment to celebrate some of the significant achievements secured by a few of our talented students and faculty. For now, please note and take pride in the following individuals:

John Cardinal O'Connor Chair for Catholic Thought: Dr. David Pitt (Theology/Religious Studies)

Mike and Linda Budde Award for Teaching Excellence: Dr. Amanda Osheim (Theology/Religious Studies)

John Cardinal Henry Newman Teaching Excellence and Faculty Leadership: Dr. Julia Omarzu (Psychology)

Faculty Promotion to Professor: Dr. Kate Cooper (Biology) and Dr. Julia Omarzu (Psychology)

Faculty Promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure Approvals: Dr. Jake Kohlhaas (Religious Studies/Theology) and Dr. Naomi Clark (English)

Professor Emeritus Designation: Dr. Len Decker (Criminal Justice)

Faculty-Staff Scholarship Award: Ms. Madeline Smith ('21)

Newman Civic Scholar: Ms. Hailey Schultz ('21)

## Gratitude:

While I so appreciate receiving the numerous daily notes and messages which offer gratitude to the College, for our people, or the genuine outreach we continue to provide, I want to especially thank all of my colleagues for going "above and beyond" in an effort to serve our students.

Though many deserve high praise and so much of what they do is more readily known, I wish to offer special commendation to the following whose work still requires them coming to campus:

- Custodial and Physical Plant Colleagues
- Business Office, Information Technology, and Human Resource Colleagues
- Campus Safety, Mailroom, Residential Life, Campus Dining, and Information Desk Colleagues

Finally, I offer special thanks for Student Union Leadership whose service has exhibited care for others in a way that is truly inspirational!

## Conclusion:

As many across the world continue to express concern about the future, I think it is especially timely to underscore the promise of Loras. We serve students well; we deliver an excellent education; we provide affordable access to all; we honor the human dignity of each individual; we succeed at the highest national levels; we produce extraordinary outcomes; we provide a holistic experience – faith, intellectual, co-curricular, and personal; we ensure community and inclusion; we demand integrity and; we celebrate our history, tradition, and beloved mission.

Based on today's experience, I think our alumnus and regent, Tim Suther '82, sums up the Loras proposition in his #NowMoreThanEver piece that was published in the Loras Daily a few days ago. <https://daily.loras.edu/now-more-than-ever/>

If you wish to keep up with a wide variety of Loras news, I strongly suggest that you subscribe to the Loras Daily by subscribing through the following link: <https://daily.loras.edu/email-digest-sign-up/>

God bless and Go Duhawks!

#LorasTogether

James E. Collins ('84)

President

Loras College