

March 26, 2020

Dear Iowa State faculty and staff,

Thanks to a heroic effort by you — our faculty and staff — virtual instruction started this week for all our students.

Count it as one of many valiant efforts you've accomplished these past days and weeks. Our residence halls' staff have made it possible for some students to stay in Ames, while helping thousands of others begin the orderly process of moving out the rest of the semester. Our faculty are adapting more than 6,000 courses while upholding our commitment to academic excellence. Our researchers are reconfiguring processes and goals to preserve essential, mission-oriented discovery. Our health and safety staff, public safety officers and facilities personnel are working on the front line of our preparedness and response efforts. Our administrators — indeed, all of you — are dealing with unimagined challenges.

Still, every day the campanile bells continue to ring. The swans still glide across Lake LaVerne. And central campus expresses its beauty as the first buds of spring emerge — as if to remind us that some things have not changed. That Iowa State will endure.

Though I know this is true, and that our Iowa State community has the talent, strength and resilience to respond to our current situation, I also know that many of you are dealing with enormous stresses.

I hear from some who are doing their best while simultaneously dealing with the demands of young children at home. Others tell me about their heightened difficulties addressing physical ailments, elderly parents or other special needs. All this is stressful enough during normal times, but our new situation intensifies the stress for many.

I ask you to reach out and help others. If you find yourself in the position to offer assistance and make someone's load lighter, please do so. Iowa State has a long history of collaboration across departments and colleges. Now, more than ever, we need this. But right now it goes beyond collaboration and collegiality — it's about compassion. Many of you already know people who need help — or you strongly suspect it. You can help, or make sure someone with the proper skills and expertise can assist.

When you help someone who is overwhelmed, you help Iowa State. Don't forget to take care of yourself: [Keep community. Stay informed. Be well.](#)

Your time, compassion and proactive assistance make a huge difference. Be sensitive to how this extraordinary time is affecting others. Be mindful of the stress that exists across the spectrum, from you as faculty and staff and throughout our student body.

As we rise up and respond to these challenges, trust that the campanile bells will continue to ring, central campus will grow greener as the days grow longer and warmer, and Iowa State will endure.

Wendy Wintersteen  
President

***P.S., Plan to join me and other senior leaders at 9 a.m., Monday, March 30, for an ISU Faculty and Staff virtual Town Hall meeting, a one-hour Adobe Connect session. You can join the Town Hall by [clicking this link](https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/isuadmin) or copy and paste the URL into your web browser: <https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/isuadmin>***