

July 31, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

In April I recorded a video, [The Heart of Iowa State](#). In a small way, it helped mark the beginning of the journey we've been on through spring and summer. Back then, we were hopeful the journey would eventually lead us back to campus for the fall.

Now we are closing in on that time. We have plotted much uncharted territory —and continue to do so. Our response to the pandemic has been the most massive and complex undertaking in Iowa State's history. Your teamwork, innovation and dedication on countless details, day in and day out, is beyond extraordinary. Your efforts, too, are unparalleled in our history.

I remain positive and hopeful because of you, our campus community. Many unknowns remain, but I am thankful that what you've accomplished has put us in as prepared a position as we can be at this date.

It doesn't mean I don't worry. I do. But this week brought news of our faculty's research progress on a [new testing platform](#) to directly detect coronavirus without waiting on lab results, and on development of a [contact-free diagnostic sensing system](#) that may be a quick test for COVID-19 or other outbreaks.

I also hear of the numerous selfless acts and caring moments throughout our campus community. A staff member makes a custom face covering to accommodate someone wearing hearing aids. Another sews a face covering broad enough to fit the face of Cy the Mascot, so Cy can represent [Cyclones Care](#). This week more than 200 shifts were quickly filled to support our student move-in at Lied Rec Center, which began today. More are needed to fill [remaining shifts](#), so please consider.

Setbacks will occur and challenges will arise. But I know we will work together to prevail. We can be proud of Iowa State's reputation for overcoming formidable obstacles and doing the utmost with the resources available to us.

Though April was only four months ago, some days it feels like four years. Back then, I said we will not allow this historic time to be defined by adversity and uncertainty. Instead, we — Iowa State University — will define this time through courage, compassion and strength.

So, have courage. Demonstrate compassion. Innovate as you prepare. Keep up your strength — take good care of yourselves. And together we'll keep the heart of this great university beating strong.



Wendy Wintersteen
President