WCU Family,

Please see below for a message from President Fiorentino that was sent to the WCU community today, July 10, 2020.

Leslie McCarthy, Director
Office of Parent and Family Relations

Dear WCU Community,

I hope all of you remain in good spirits. As many of you are aware, the latest national data is currently reporting a significant spike in some coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks and hot spots have spewed to more than 40 states. Today, the U.S. surpasses three million cases of the coronavirus and reports more than 155,000 new cases in a single day (WCU) cannot ignore the potential dangers of bringing thousands back to campus. Accordingly, our plans for the fall semester must adjust to this new reality. I have made the decision to continue remote learning through the fall 2020 semester, with a few courses delivered in a hybrid format, meaning both in-person and remote. In order for us to have students present on campus, students, student teaching responsibilities, internship arrangements, and similar requirements.

Continuing remote instruction for fall 2020 will ensure that our students’ educations will be uninterrupted as they earn credits required for academic degrees. Know that faculty and staff will continue to be accessible and highly committed to student success. In fact, we have added a number of enhancements to help students succeed despite the effects of COVID-19. The following are among the tools and strategies that we have added to support students during this unprecedented time.

- We have implemented a technology lending program, including laptops, webcams, and mobile hotspots for students without access to Broadband Internet.
- We have increased advising outreach by faculty to support student success.
- We have shifted the University’s library services from mostly in-person support to remote delivery, including the mailing of library materials to students’ homes.

In addition, a list of resources is present on a Green Phase, our public buildings will be open and will be limited to 50 percent capacity. This means that Sykes Student Union, the Campus Recreation Center, FHG Library, and several other buildings will be open for use and are currently being readied in ways that will foster and promote active social distancing.

To support the University’s goal of all undergraduates completing their education by June 2020, the revised fall schedule will reflect a majority of classes that will be available solely by remote learning. The University will make adjustments to dining, housing, and other student services impacted by this shift to remote instruction. Details about specific adjustments will be posted online.

The University understands that students’ lives have been turned upside down by a relentless pandemic that continues to sweep across the globe. Our support for our WCU community will not end with this transition; we will continue to be here for all and will help students cross the finish line in whatever way they choose.

Frequently Asked Questions (WCU FAQs)

Office of Student Success Coordinators and Student Success Coaches

- We have created online training modules focused on assisting students with the transition from in-person classes to remote learning.
- We have transitioned all student support services to remote delivery, including additional tutoring and supplemental instruction for specific courses.
- We have partnered with key software providers to ensure home access for students.
- We have increased advising outreach by faculty to support student success.
- We have enhanced remote student support through our Student Success Coordinators and Student Success Coaches.

As instruction for credit continues at WCU on a remote learning basis and will do so throughout the 2020 fall semester, many necessary services remain and are being carried on as they would with face-to-face instruction. The University will make adjustments to dining, housing, and other student services impacted by this shift to remote instruction. Details about specific adjustments will be posted online.

At the same time, we will also provide a wealth of out-of-class experiences, and plan to make our future community-wide events part of our community through opportunities that will enable them to transition smoothly when in-person instruction resumes.

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West Chester University on-campus housing is developing detailed plans to welcome a limited population of students to our residential facilities with added precautions for the health and well-being of our students. Students with current completed lease or occupancy agreements are welcomed to campus; however, prioritization will be given to students who are in the following categories: Promise Program students, proven hardship cases, academic placements (i.e. student teachers, clinical placements, and internship sites), and potentially themed learning communities.

We know that you have many questions and we want to help. Please see the link on our website to Frequently Asked Questions (WCU FAQs). Also, on Thursday, July 16, from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm, our leadership team will hold a Facebook Live session for WCU students and their families. We will talk about whatever students want to hear. Students and families can RSVP for our Facebook Live session for WCU students and their families.

Sincerely,

Christopher Fiorentino
President