



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
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Dreams, Opportunities & the Future

As we get ready to begin this unprecedented year, I have thought often of some smart young students I met working in a rural market several years ago. They lived in a part of the world where they had to find a way to pay for their education beyond the fifth grade. For many of these teenagers, college was a faraway dream – the chance of a lifetime.

I hope we appreciate what an opportunity it is to go to college. And that it's true, everywhere in the world: college is a dream, the chance of a lifetime. We need to hold on to that dream. It's a key to the future. This year COVID-19 (CV19) has disrupted lives, college plans and opportunities. We'll all be tested and challenged and stretched to do things we've never done before. But we'll do everything we can to stop the virus from stealing anyone's dream!

SAFER CAMPUS + SAFER PRACTICES

Our **Safer Campus** plan is reconfiguring every classroom and space on campus, for safer distancing. We're installing new state-of-the-art HEPA air filtration and Clean Tech air sanitation everywhere on campus. We'll be changing or eliminating doors to reduce touches and enhance ventilation. We're adding WIFI-equipped outdoor classrooms. We have new FDA-certified medical masks for everyone, for every day, and sanitizing wipes, and hand sanitizer stations all across campus. We've certified a new CV19 testing lab right on our campus.

To win this battle with the virus, we all need to adopt our four **Safer Practices** as daily routines – mask, social distance, keep clean & healthy, and check-in daily. I came to the University from the world of medical research. I have access to the world's leading medical research. I can promise you these four practices will protect you, and protect everyone here. They're like a knight's armor, and a knight's promise of chivalry and honor. Please don't be a weak link in the armor. Don't put yourself at risk, or endanger friends, professors, coaches or their families.

BREAKTHROUGH: PIONEERING NEW TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT SAFER PRACTICES

Here's a surprise! You know we're one of a handful of Apple Distinguished Schools with state-of-the-art iPad Pros, Smart Keyboards and Apple Pencils. To help balance some of the challenges of communicating through masks at social distance – whether in classes or with friends – we're pioneering with Apple to create the world's most advanced iPad / smartphone communication system. We're pairing the iPad Pro with the new *state-of-the-art* **AirPods Pro wireless headphone / microphones** with Active Noise Cancellation. *Everyone will have them.*

These new AirPods Pro have listening and communicating super powers! We are the global **beta** site – pilot site – to develop this new concept, to create and perfect a new approach to micro-networking tech to connect students with professors, and friends with friends. The goal is to connect everyone in a class – professors and students – whether in the same room, on the same stream, reviewing a recording later, on a phone or FaceTime call, or connecting with audio/video. AirPods Pro have best-in-class ANC (Active Noise Cancellation) technology to reduce external noise, sharpen hearing and attention, and increase focus during class and especially when studying individually. This is pioneering, real time R&D with Apple, on a major tech step forward in network communication technology. And it's us, here, this year.

NEW TWIN CAMPUSES: VA AND VI

In parallel, we're investing a lot of time, effort, talent and funding to accommodate students who can't attend classes on campus, who may be ill or need to be quarantined or isolated for CV19, or who need to live at home this semester. For this semester, or for this school year if necessary, we're creating and operating two live campuses: our historic Virginia campus (VA) and a global Virtual campus (VI). Every student can attend either or both – for two days or two weeks, for a semester or for two semesters – and can seamlessly shift between the two. We want every student to have full personal support, access and technology to succeed and keep moving ahead with life and learning, so everyone has the option to attend the Virginia Campus, the Virtual Campus, or both, with no change in tuition.

These are twin campuses. Every student has full access to both campuses. After enrolling and registering, you can attend and participate in a class either on campus (VA) or virtually (VI) on iPad/AirPods or both. With both campuses you are in the same small classes with the same professors, the same classmates, the same tutors, the same support discussions, the same time and access to your professors during expanded professor office hours. With your iPad Pro and AirPods Pro you can also watch and/or review the class later, and see and hear the same teaching, same questions, same comments. Every student in Virginia or in Virtual has the same personal access to their professors and their advisors, to the Writing Center, the Learning Center, the Library support teams, the Student Professional Development team. Everyone receives and uses the same Apple devices and technology – the iPad Pro, Smart Keyboards, Apple Pencils and now the AirPods Pro – whether on campus, in a dorm, or at home.

We know that being at home right now is the only safe option for some of us, and saves some cost on room and board, but we also know that being away means missing being on campus with professors, classmates, coaches, friends, the Institute, the YSA wards, the Shenandoah Valley, and the growth of independent life. We can't control everything, but we will do all we can to make this as healthy and happy as anywhere we could be.

And we'll never give up on Dreams, Opportunities, and the Future. This is a special place. We're committed to higher standards, higher values, and truly higher education. This is a special time of life, when great young men and women learn more than in all the previous years of school, make special friends and key decisions, choices that set patterns, priorities, and pathways for life.

This is a time to dream. It's the chance of a lifetime. Let's be men and women of integrity. Let's love one another. Let us be of good cheer and, come what may, this will be the best year ever!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reed N. Wilcox', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reed N. Wilcox
President
Southern Virginia University