



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY  
OFFICE *of the* PRESIDENT  
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Dear Campus Community,

## **We're halfway through the toughest semester ever!**

One year ago, no one could have foreseen the global impact of this pandemic on the world. Six months ago, no one could have foreseen where we are now as a university.

## **Every Knight deserves a midterm grade of A+ in COVID Management!**

# A+

**Against all odds, despite a once-in-a-century pandemic,** we have the largest student body in school history! We have the most NCAA student-athletes in history, the most student performing artists and designers, the most esports competitors, the largest faculty, the most student wards—the greatest team ever assembled here at our hilltop campus in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. And the fewest cases of COVID-19!

**After eight weeks, zero active cases.** Since arriving in August, there have been only five confirmed cases. No faculty cases. No student cases since week one. No student cases today. (Please see midterm report, attached below.)

# 0

Active Cases as of Today

**This is a miracle!** We were able to create safer facilities by making major investments to redesign and reconfigure the entire school. You have created a safer culture by living the Four Pillars and embracing innovative changes to our campus and classrooms. We found the best clean air technology in the world, the best high-performance disposable masks in the world, and the best AirPods Pro communication technology in the world—becoming the first school in the world to pair AirPods Pro with our iPad Pro, Magic Keyboard and Apple Pencil technology. We also created 10 new open-air pavilion classrooms with full WiFi, personal tables and chairs, and carpets and shades. I feel blessed to live and work with the best students, best faculty, best coaches, best professional staff, best Institute of Religion, best Church leaders, and best leadership in the world.

**And, we need to remember** that we virtually gathered together on the first week of school and joined our faith together with our Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Stake Patriarch Glade Knight, to ask the Lord for a special blessing—on our campus, our students, our colleagues, and our families—to shelter us from the storm of COVID-19. We need to remember and recognize that, after doing all we have done, we've been blessed.

## Spring is Coming!

**Hope for a vaccine by December.** My sources in the pharmaceutical world still say new vaccines will hopefully become available in December. These vaccines will first be available to healthcare workers and first responders, and then roll out to senior centers, higher-risk populations, and on to everyone over the following weeks.

**An on-campus vaccination site?** Working with authorities, we're offering to invest in the high-cost, ultra-low temperature medical-grade freezer technology required for vaccines to support our application for creating an on-campus vaccination site. Why not? We successfully created and certified our own on-campus COVID-19 Testing Lab. A vaccination center on campus would assure the earliest possible access to vaccination for everyone here, and hopefully for our surrounding community.

**Vaccination will open the door to the future, and back to normal life!** We're doing everything possible to access vaccination for everyone here as soon as possible. Our goal is to have access to vaccines by February. Vaccination will open the way for teams to practice, scrimmage and compete, for performing arts groups to hold concerts, performances, spring plays, and musicals, and for everyone to return to normal classes in person. We'll gather for pizza after University Forums, sing "Love One Another," have activities and dances, hang out together, have normal lunches with friends, go to dinner and a movie, smile without a mask, and feel completely free to be ourselves again.

**Tough Things First.** Our friend Ray Zinn, the longest-serving CEO in Silicon Valley, wrote a book about his life as an ultra-successful entrepreneur: "Tough Things First." Halfway through the toughest semester we'll ever have, we've done the Tough Things First: we've held on, been strong, and lived the Four Pillars. As Coach Ed Mulitalo said in last week's video: This works! We've won the first half. We've had an All-Star first half. Let's stay with the fundamentals and finish strong. We're doing the Tough Things First. We're so very proud of you. Now we'll have the Best Spring Ever!

**Great things ahead. The Best Spring Ever!**



Reed N. Wilcox  
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