

**OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

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January 6, 2021

Good afternoon and Happy New Year!

I trust that you had a restorative holiday break, as I did, and that you share my excitement about the possibilities for the spring semester and the New Year.

Having just completed one of the most challenging years in our College's 100-year history, we are ready to begin 2021 with a clean slate. However, circumstances require that we continue to deal with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am glad to say that the hardest work of staying safe while continuing to learn and to work for the improvement of our community has already been achieved. The changes in instructional delivery and student support services that were devised and implemented beginning last March are still in place, and they are working. We served more than 20,000 and graduated more than 2,500 students in 2020 without experiencing a significant COVID-19 outbreak among our students or our employees.

As a result of the holidays, COVID-19 numbers are rising in our region and state. I have been clear from the beginning that the health and safety of faculty, staff, and students is paramount. Now is not the time to let our guard down, and we must continue to **Stay Safe**. To that end, I have asked department heads to stagger the in-person office hours of staff who returned on January 4. Additionally, we are moving all classes to virtual delivery until February 1. This means that instruction planned as face-to-face must become virtual for the first two weeks of the semester. A few exceptions may be approved, such as clinicals in Nursing and Allied Health.

Students who need to borrow laptop computers will be given the opportunity to do so. The Office of Information Technology has upgraded the College's web servers to streamline access to online resources. The Office of Communications and Marketing is making certain students receive the information they need on the College's website, working closely with Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Workforce Development.

Financial Aid, Admissions, Answer Center, Academic Advising, and the Center for New Student Engagement will be serving students through the Virtual Office. Students who need face-to-face assistance can be directed to the City Park Campus Student Life Center Lobby, Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. through Feb 2. Additionally, libraries and computer labs will remain open as a resource to you and we will adhere to CDC guidelines of face covering, disinfecting and social distancing.

All Delgado faculty, staff, and students are strongly encouraged to be tested for the Coronavirus before the spring semester begins. Information about COVID-19 testing, including locations for testing in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, is posted at the [NOLA Ready website](#). We will announce on-site testing for Delgado locations soon, and the schedule will be posted to the Delgado website's home page and [Delgado Cares](#) page.

Enrollment is one of the challenges Delgado must address strenuously during the pandemic. We are down about 12 percent today as compared to this date a year ago, when things were normal. Therefore, we must do all that we can as educators and support staff to make certain that every potential student receives the attention and care they need in order to enroll successfully. We have extended registration for spring semester through January 22.

As we have done since the pandemic began, all members of the Delgado family must continue to care about one another and follow every precaution in order to **Stay Safe**. The latest information about our response to the COVID-19 challenges will always be available on the Delgado website, and I will communicate with you as needed.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to our students' success!

Sincerely,

Larissa Littleton-Steib, Ph.D.  
Chancellor