



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

September 8, 2020

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have had an enjoyable and productive summer and are looking forward to the beginning of the academic year.

Certainly, the beginning of this semester is unique and not what any of us had planned for, but we have weathered this storm better than most and are poised for success. A big reason for our success is the hard work of our Emergency Response Team that has worked tirelessly to prepare for a safe return to campus.

As you know, Daemen has been very aggressive with our COVID planning; we are the only college in the region to require testing for everyone before classes start. So far, we have tested close to 2,150 individuals with only 4 positive tests. Those testing positive will be quarantined so that they do not infect anyone else on campus or off. The system is doing what it is designed to do.

Despite the disruption to our lives caused by the pandemic, I am pleased to report that the college continues to make tangible progress. After a year of diligent work—even through a pandemic—our strategic plan steering committee has produced an initial draft of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. You should have received a link for a survey to provide the committee with feedback; we encourage everyone to take the time to review and submit their thoughts.

I am also delighted to announce the completion of a state-of-the-art new facility on campus: The Center for Interprofessional Learning and Simulation (CILS). This simulation center will offer a hands-on learning experience for our students and is also being utilized for our COVID testing on campus. This 1,824 square foot replica of a modern health clinic allows our students to have hands-on and realistic experience. Even amid the interruption of the pandemic, we were able to complete this critical project for the college. I want to give special recognition to Dean Liz Wright and the entire committee for their dedication in seeing this project to fruition.

We know by now that you may be suffering from “email fatigue” as we send out many notices and communications about opening preparations. Please know that we are trying to condense and centralize

September 8, 2020
Page Two

communications as much as possible. Dr. Naylor sent out a simplified “COVID Checklist” communication last week. Please review this (and print it) so that you have all the information you need in one place.

Remember, the best way to ensure that we do not have to quarantine a lot of individuals is to wear your PPE at all times, follow the social distancing guidelines on campus, and practice hand-washing and sanitizing. The College has adopted the motto, “Respect to Protect,” which places the health of the community above individuals. We will not take any chances with people’s health, education, or livelihood. Individuals who fail to comply—who do not wear their masks, and/or have large gatherings—will be subject to immediate removal from campus as a public health risk.

While things may look a little different on campus from usual, rest assured that Daemen students will still have a meaningful on-campus experience this term. We are committed to that, but we need everyone’s help to make it work.

Lastly, I am also pleased to announce that we will once again offer additional time off around the winter holidays. The college will be closed from December 24 through January 1. Offices will re-open on January 4, 2021. We hope you are able to enjoy some relaxation and quality time with family and friends.

I look forward to seeing you back on campus and wish you luck with the start of the semester. Remember: Respect to Protect!

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson
President