



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

December 1, 2020

Daemen College  
Students, Staff and Faculty

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have found your semester to be productive and rewarding and that you are looking forward to a much-deserved winter break.

We have made it to the end of the calendar year, and I continue to be proud of the entire Daemen community for our diligence and resilience. Because of you, we have kept our community safe while still delivering a first-rate education to our students. A large part of this effort has been our proactive COVID testing efforts. As you know, we have been implementing surveillance testing over the last several weeks, which has allowed for the continued health and safety of our campus. Our Emergency Response Team has arranged for on-campus rapid COVID testing thanks to their proactive work in receiving permission from the state Department of Health to operate as a Limited Services Laboratory and perform these tests.

This came at an opportune time since we have recently discovered, over the last few rounds of surveillance testing, that all of the major insurance companies—including Blue Cross, Univera, and Independent Health—are intermittently denying claims for testing, requiring a co-pay, etc. Our CHIP Center has been pushing back to get these paid through insurance, but with limited luck. As you can imagine, much of this is beyond our control. Up to this point, the College has ensured that anyone who was not able to afford a test would be covered even if insurance did not assist. That being said, if you are in a position to pay using an HSA card or by other means, that would be very much appreciated.

Moving forward, to minimize expense to community members, we are going to utilize our internal testing system using rapid tests. If and when the CHIP center authorizes someone to be tested, there will be no charge for that test. Any PCR tests (that is, the nasal swabs) that need to be conducted will be required to be completed off-campus at the expense of the individual.

Students, Staff and Faculty  
December 1, 2020  
Page Two

We are hopeful that Congress and/or the state will pass additional CARES act funding to assist us with these costs, but until that occurs, this plan will allow us to continue surveillance testing while minimizing the financial impact on others.

As I hope you've seen by now, the college recently unveiled the 2020-25 strategic plan: *A Shared Vision: Daemen's Emerging National Distinction*. If you have not done so yet, I encourage you to view this new plan on the dedicated [website](#). This was a collaborative effort and you should be very proud of the final product. Its companion, the 2020-25 Master Plan, is near completion. Amanda Gross will be sharing a link to a survey for public comment in the coming days, and I encourage everyone to provide feedback. This plan highlights the substantial progress made to the campus over the last five years and lays out the blueprint for continued growth and enhancements.

I wish you and your family continued health and a happy holiday season.

Cordially,



Gary A. Olson  
President