



# DAEMEN

COLLEGE

**A World of Opportunity**

Office of the President

March 15, 2020

Daemen College  
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

Information and events concerning the COVID-19 pandemic seem to be changing at a dizzying pace. Daemen's senior staff and emergency response team (ERT) have been working non-stop to try to keep up with all of these changes and manage how they affect the college.

At a press conference held this morning, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz provided an update on the county's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this event, he declared a state of emergency for Erie County effective at noon today, and he noted that we are entering "uncharted territories." The county state of emergency includes closing schools in Erie County for Monday. It is reasonable to assume that many if not all school districts will close for some amount of time. I know many of you have been preparing for this, but now it is a reality.

We are aware that this state of emergency is yet another challenge that impacts all of us. Please know that at Daemen, our primary concern continues to be the health and well-being of our community and that we are navigating all of these challenges as they arise. I have given Cabinet officials wide latitude to allow individuals to work from home, while ensuring that the college is able to continue operations uninterrupted.

Additionally, we have taken serious steps, including instituting a spending freeze, to ensure that individuals will not have their pay affected during this crisis if they have to work from home, take time for child care, and/or are take care of themselves or others who are affected by COVID-19.

Like all challenges we face at Daemen, we will get through this together. I am grateful for everyone's commitment to the college during this tough time. I am confident that if we continue to work together, follow the lead of senior leadership and our ERT, and ensure that we are supporting our students and each other, we will come out of this on top.

Please continue to be well and communicate with your supervisor about your needs. You will continue to receive regular communication from the college as needed.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President