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August 26, 2020

## Dear Campus Community:

I am pleased to report that, as of today, we have no known positive COVID-19 cases related to our campus. Our commitment to following the social distancing, face covering, and hand hygiene guidelines are certainly key to our current and future ability to manage the spread of the virus on our campus.

These early indicators of success could lull us into a false sense of security and result in our being less diligent in following the guidelines. It is as important as ever that we adhere to the rules that are intended to keep us all safe while we go about the work of fulfilling our educational mission.

Unfortunately, some have reported to me that students and faculty are not always following the social distancing, face covering, and other guidelines as set forth in our COVID-19 management strategy. Let this serve as a reminder of the following expectations placed on each of us

- Keep 6 feet of social distance between yourself and others (both on and off campus).
- Wear face coverings (masks or shields) when inside any University facility except while inside your assigned residence room, while alone inside your office, or while eating in the dining room or other designated areas.
- Wear face coverings (masks or shields) outdoors whenever it is not feasible to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more.
- Agree not to host any off-campus guests.
- Agree not to host in-person social gatherings, particularly when social distancing is not possible.
- Limit personal travel for leisure or recreation and remain in the Philippi area as much as possible; when traveling, comply with all local, state, national, and University travel guidance.

The health and safety of all of us is up to each of us. *Individually and collectively, we must take personal and shared responsibility for keeping our community safe*. Our commitment will enable all of us to enjoy a successful semester together!

Sincerely,

Bruce A. Blankenship

COVID-19 Response Coordinator

Assistant to the President for Special Projects