

Good afternoon Colleagues,

With the start of the fall semester just a few weeks away, I am pleased to provide this College update as we enter our 59th year of providing high quality education and workforce development to the communities we serve.

I want to thank all of you for going above and beyond to put our students first during these uncertain times. As we look ahead, the health and safety of our students and employees continues to be our paramount concern.

We're taking extensive precautions to keep our College community #ACMstrong. Among the many new health and safety measures we've adopted, the college is using medical-grade cleaning products for daily housekeeping and an ultraviolet (UV) cleaning cart for high-touch surfaces (at the Cumberland campus), reducing the number of students in class and on campus, and requiring face coverings and social distancing.

It is critical that all employees, students, and visitors wear face masks or face coverings while inside ACM's buildings, except while working or studying alone in a confined space such as an office or lab. Masks must be worn outdoors when physical distancing is not possible, and everyone should carry a face mask at all times when outdoors in case of an unexpected encounter with others.

In addition, please utilize virtual options when scheduling meetings with faculty, staff, and students to the greatest extent possible.

On the instructional side, we've added new technologies to enhance in-person and remote learning to deepen the connections we have with our students and the connections they have with one another. We will offer six different ways for students to learn this fall – ways that we hope will appeal to our students. I encourage you to visit the [ACM Outlook – Plans for Fall 2020 page](#) and share our instructional plans and safety procedures with the current and prospective students you know and encounter.

We've proactively established an ACM COVID-19 Command Team to help us navigate that which we hope to avoid in the weeks ahead – positive COVID-19 tests. The team, which consists of faculty and staff members, is communicating frequently with and taking direction from our local health departments medical directors to ensure that we take appropriate steps for our campuses and locations. Trust through transparency is important, and the Command Team will share additional details as they become available.

We truly are all in this together. Please reach out to the Vice-President in your area to share your questions and concerns, so that they can be discussed at our leadership team meetings or COVID-19 Command Team meetings.

As a final note, I want to personally invite you to join the ACM virtual commencement this Friday, August 7th at 6pm. The ceremony will be livestreamed through [ACM's](#)

[Facebook page](#). Together, while we're apart, we will recognize and celebrate our Spring and Summer 2020 grads in a manner that protects the health and safety of students and their loved ones.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,

Dr. B.