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May 18 2020: Back to Campus Update, Volume One

Kettering University

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SAFE RETURN TO CAMPUS

UPDATE | VOL. 1

KETTERING **STRONG**, KETTERING **VALUES**, KETTERING **BUILT**.

May, 18, 2020

To the Kettering Community:

I hope that you and those around you are well and healthy.

In preparation for our return to campus for A-Section next term, we are going to begin sending to you a regular stream of communications via emails just like this one. These emails will outline the actions we will be taking as well as the protocols and changes to our operations that we will be making to ensure that we return to a safe working and learning environment in the summer.

They will also speak to how conditions on campus or in the Flint community might impact the operations of the University and to how the protocols we are enacting are responsive to CDC and government guidance.

Starting next week, these emails will arrive at least once a week (look for them each Friday), but as we get closer to the first day of classes you may begin to see more than one a week. Please take time to read them. They won't be long, yet each one will contain important information that you will need to know before we return to campus. They will also include information that will answer questions that you may have, and links to additional materials that you should also take time to review. At the bottom of each one will also be an email address that you can use if you have further questions about the subject of the email.

We are excited to welcome the Kettering Community back to campus.

Beginning with the summer term and the opening of the 2020-2021 academic year on July 13, we will return to face-to-face instruction on campus consistent with guidelines and best practices at that time.

Thompson Hall will reopen to students at the beginning of the summer term as previously scheduled. However, for summer term 2020 we will suspend our 1st year student on-campus residency requirement, allowing entering students to elect either to live in Thompson Hall or to commute to campus if they feel more comfortable doing so.

Remote work for employees continues through May, with phased return of employees in June and July.

We have been working tirelessly as a community to prepare for the day we reopen campus.

Teams of faculty, staff, and students drawn from across the University have been working steadfastly for over two months to research, evaluate, monitor, and define the steps we will need to take over the coming weeks to ensure our safe return to campus while delivering the educational experience that our students expect once we do.

These teams are currently refining elements of our return-to-campus plan. This *Playbook for Our Return to Campus* will be shared with the University community when it is ready for distribution in mid to late June. While we are doing this planning, though, know that we are also acting - purchasing needed supplies, making changes to workspaces and classrooms, and

procuring the ability to do broad, on-demand testing of faculty, staff, and students.
Our *Playbook* will address a wide range of University operations, including:

- Academics, including courses, scheduling and use of alternative course delivery
- Academic, dining, on-campus residential, and common space redesign to facilitate social distancing
- On-campus testing and contact tracing, including pre-testing, testing during the term, isolation, and provisions for medical care and isolation/quarantine if needed
- Residential living and off-campus housing
- Wellness including mental and physical well-being
- Student activities, Greek Life, and Clubs
- Dining services
- PPE supplies and equipment
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitization

Many of these topics will also be addressed in future emails. In all of our plans we are guided by our core values as a community, as are the actions we take:

- Respect** for teamwork, honesty, encouragement, diversity, and partnerships with students
- Integrity** including accountability, transparency and ethics
- Creativity** fostering flexibility and innovation
- Collaboration** across disciplines and with all partners
- Excellence** in all we do

When we return to campus, we all know that we will not be returning immediately to the normal we left behind in March, but those days will come again. Until then, our ability to operate on campus safely will depend in large part on each of us assuming personal responsibility to act in ways that ensure the safety and health of our community and supporting others to do the same. If we all take this responsibility to heart, we will create – together – a path to the future that is anchored in our values – and the one that shows what it means to be Kettering Built.

Stay Well.

Dr. Robert K. McMahan
President and Professor of Physics



Questions? Email welcomebackbulldogs@kettering.edu

