Dear Carle Illinois community,

As we enter into week three of our remote working and learning experience, I hope this update finds you healthy and well amidst our current challenges. While we’d all prefer to be together on the University of Illinois campus, I am grateful for everyone’s efforts to “flatten the curve” for the sake of our community and healthcare workers – many of whom are our colleagues and friends.

As we continue to make these changes together, I encourage you to continue your efforts to support and encourage your colleagues during this time. Some may be experiencing the same heavy workload, but with decreased capacity due to child or family care, personal wellness, technology changes, or other considerations. We will all benefit from growing in our understanding of each other’s experiences and adapting accordingly as we navigate this new reality, and I applaud you for your efforts. As we head into the rest of the week, please review some updates from our college colleagues below.

**Accreditation Update**

As I mentioned in an email last week, our Provisional Accreditation Site Visit that was previously scheduled for May 17-20 will be postponed to August 2020 due to COVID-19. The mock site visit previously scheduled for April 30-May 1 will also be postponed until July. I will share further updates with you as they become available. We’re grateful to Iuliana Balascuta for leading these efforts for our college and for the vast participation from faculty, staff and students as well.

**HR Update**

Please remember that if you have not already completed your online telecommuting agreement form, please do so at your earliest convenience. Additionally, Karen McLaughlin will be reaching out regarding the campus plan to capture “lost” work time/productivity as a result of COVID-19 disruption. You will expect to hear from her or your supervisor with additional instructions.

**Student Update**

Phase 1 students will be participating in Carle Illinois’ first ever online OSCE. Please keep the Academic Affairs team and students in your thoughts as they navigate the changes, and congratulate them on yet another innovative adjustment during our new digital curriculum delivery.

For our Phase 2 students, the AAMC has extended the recommendation that students not be involved in direct patient care activities through April 13, 2020 in hopes of supporting nationwide attempts to “flatten the curve”, preserve PPE and maintain safety given current testing availability. Academic Affairs is also watching closely the need to move to a pass/fail grading structure for clerkships in conjunction with medical schools nationwide, but no definite decisions have yet been made.

**Carle Illinois COVID-19 Response**

On an encouraging note, several of our faculty, staff and students have been involved in efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we celebrate their innovations and examples they’ve set in helping others.
Many of our Phase 2 students participated in the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Virtual Design Challenge. Eleven students separated into two groups to develop innovative solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic, and they were selected out of 515 teams to be in the final competition of 235 teams. You can see a photo of one team attached. Congratulations to our inspiring and creative students!

Additionally, many faculty and staff were involved in developing a working prototype of an emergency ventilator to help address the expected surge in the need for respiratory care. This was an interdisciplinary effort from all corners of campus and Carle, and we are grateful for the selfless efforts of our many faculty and staff who were involved.

Additional Resources
As mentioned before, please check the college’s COVID-19 page for ongoing resources to support you as you make adjustments to your teaching and working at this time. And remember, we are grateful for your hard work and resilience every day.

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Dean

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