

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVOST



Make the Decision that's Right for You

Dear Faculty,

Implementing the phased reopening of Kent State University this fall is well underway thanks to the leadership of our Reopening Committee, led by Dr. Manfred van Dulmen, as well as the leadership provided by the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Academic Continuity Committee. Since March, our success in facing the challenges of COVID-19 has been driven by ever-increasing levels of cooperation between faculty, employees, and administrators in ways we never thought possible.

As we continue our success in managing the ongoing impact of the COVID 19 pandemic this fall, the University will again rely on the talent and resilience of our workforce. We all, and especially our faculty, will have an important role in providing students a memorable and successful year at Kent State. I recognize that teaching in a traditional face-to-face classroom involves a new set of challenges and risks for faculty and students, and that for any number of reasons, some members of our campus community may be not be able or ready to return to campus this fall.

To that end, I want to make it clear that our faculty members will decide when they are ready and able to return to in-person teaching during the pandemic. For those of you opting to teach face-to-face, we are committed to providing safe, socially distant classrooms. For those of you opting to teach remotely, we will continue to support your needs, particularly in cooperation with our wonderful Center for Teaching and Learning. Please make sure your academic unit administrator (e.g., campus dean, department chair, school director) is aware of your choice.

Always, the health and safety of our workforce is a top priority. Through this pandemic, the University has continued to serve its various constituencies in ways we had never envisioned only a few months ago. I am confident that we can do this again as we gradually reopen our campuses.

We have learned that as a large complex organization, we are also quite nimble. We have also learned that we can adapt to change while making

decisions that support our entire community. If you need help in making this decision, please reach out to your supervisor, the Division of Human Resources, your medical provider, and your family to discuss your individual circumstances.

I look forward to working with all of you again in person at some point in the future. **Please make the decision that is right decision for you.** Together we have proven again and again that FLASHES TAKE CARE OF FLASHES.

My Best,



Melody Tankersley
Interim Senior Vice President and Provost
Kent State University

