



May 29, 2020

Message from President Finuf

Dear Salem University Students,

First and most importantly, I hope all of you and your families are staying healthy during this very unusual time in our world.

COVID-19 has impacted our University in many ways, however we continue every day to adjust and plan for the future. This pandemic has changed the way we live, work and play, however, we do not move forward in fear, but with resolve and hope, with a clear focus on the future.

Over the last several months, we have dealt with unexpected and sudden changes at our University as well as in our lives. It has been unfortunate, uncomfortable and unwanted; however, it is in a crisis like COVID-19 that we must be at our best, not just for ourselves, but for our families, our friends and our communities. Our concerns must first be for each other. The University's priority will continue to be focused on each of you, our faculty and our staff.

To our campus-based students, we want to thank you for your full cooperation in exiting the campus when the Governor of West Virginia issued his Stay at Home order. We know it was not easy for you and we appreciate how well you handled the sudden change. Our Spring athletic teams were most affected; so, we especially recognize your professionalism despite the strong disappointment the entire Salem community had in cancelling the rest of the athletic season. You worked hard to be prepared and you started off strong. Each of you are appreciated for all of your efforts and determination during these unprecedented times.

As we turn to the fall term, **Salem University plans to be ready to accept new and returning students on campus as normally scheduled**, pending guidance by health and government officials. Although we understand that there are still decisions to be made regarding travel, social distancing and athletic events, we remain focused on the future and will adhere to the guidance of our health experts and governmental authority.

Today, our leadership team along with our health and safety committee are working hard to provide a clear plan as to how we will open, what new safety measures will need to be in place, and how we will work together to ensure the safety of everyone who comes to our Salem University campus. We are committed to aggressively work through the issues in an effective and safe manner. The Salem University team will continue to monitor and respond based on the daily information we receive. We will be diligent, and will continue to provide updates as we move through the summer.

We at Salem remain steadfast in our future and have a continuous focus on the quality of education we provide, whether online, or on our physical campus. We will continue to support each of you throughout your years with us, and to graduation. We look forward to one day having each of you as one of our alumni of this wonderful, historic, University.

Stay safe and **Go Tigers!**

