To: Wesley College Family
From: Wesley College President
Date: June 4th, 2020
Subject: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – UPDATE #14

Dear Wesley College Family,

Since our last update, we as a nation once again bore witness to a cancer that continues to fester in our being as a country and a people. Though not directly related to the CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Pandemic, systemic racism and social inequality are themselves a pandemic that must be realized and eradicated. Below are the contents of a letter I sent out to our campus community this week expressing our views and commitment:

_Standing United We Condemn Racism, Violence, and Social Inequality_

_The uncertainty and unprecedented challenges resultant from the COVID-19 Pandemic that we all face, have now been accompanied by the despicable side of humanity as our nation watched in horror as George Floyd’s life was taken by an individual who was supposed to protect and serve life. Additionally, peaceful protests for social justice are being overshadowed by the current lawless and self-destructive acts of violence erupting across our country._

_We, as a campus community and family, can be the spirit of unity that provides a path of education and healing to a country and society so desperate for hope. Collectively we condemn any type of racism, intolerance, or violence, while doing our best to foster a campus culture that is welcoming, inclusive, respectful, compassionate, tolerant, ethical, and just._

_As our nation looks for answers...as our nation looks to heal...as our nation looks for hope and change...look no further than Wesley College, or other institutions of higher learning, where differences are embraced, inequities challenged, and all races, genders, persuasions, ideals, and views are embraced and celebrated – not minimized, ridiculed, or persecuted._

_We can make a difference, and we must make a difference, so that, “...one nation under God indivisible, with liberty and justice for all...” is not just a phrase in a sacred pledge to our flag, but a reality that is shared by all those who live under the blanket of freedom that our flag represents, and is supposed to provide._

_Let us all commit to solidarity and change – not just in our words, but more importantly in our actions._

_Students who were in residence this past year returned to campus this week to move out of their Residence Hall rooms. The process to date has been very efficient & effective, and a special thanks goes out to our Office of Residence Life, our Public Safety staff, our Maintenance Team, and our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Action Group (CAG) for developing and executing an effective plan. Additionally, we enjoyed seeing our students and families, and appreciated their cooperation and assistance in making these move outs a success._
The CAG, in consultation with other state and regional institutions, is finalizing our return to campus policies and procedures that we look to implement over the next several weeks in parallel with Delaware’s Phased Economic Reopening Plan. We will use the lessons learned from this week’s student move out and apply those to our campus repopulation plan for bringing back faculty and staff. Finally, we will take the collective lessons learned from both events and apply those to our plans for Fall Reopening and the return of our student body.

Our intentions right now, are to have students return to campus this Fall. Specifics will be provided no later than the end of June, regarding how the return will be executed, when they are finalized and approved so that we can provide, as best as possible, the safest and educationally conducive campus environment, while at the same time doing our part with our city, county, and state agencies in preventing and/or mitigating the chance of COVID-19 infections on campus. Additionally, we are in consultation with our respective athletic conferences and the NCAA regarding the return of student-athletes to campus and the Fall Season – we will provide updates and guidance when available.

As previously reported we were very fortunate to have been appropriated funds from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to assist our students, during these unprecedented and challenging times. Checks have been sent out to students who applied and were approved for these funds. Additionally, we have started sending out prorated refund checks to students who had to move out of the Residence Halls resultant from measures implemented because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.

All mandates issued in previous updates remain in effect unless modified in a subsequent update. Please continue to regularly check your Wesley email as well as the College’s website for the most up to date information and guidance on our Coronavirus (COVID-19) page on our website – https://wesley.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-information.

Stay informed, stay healthy, stay positive, and stay safe while helping others that are less fortunate and making a positive impact in the community you live in and serve.

For the thought of the day I will share a portion of a statement recently published from former President George W. Bush, that is worth reflecting on - “...this is not the time for us to lecture. It is time for us to listen. It is time for America to examine our tragic failures -- and as we do, we will also see some of our redeeming strengths...”

All The Best & Go Wolverines!

Robert E. Clark II
President of the College