June 17, 2020

Dear ACHE Community:

The Arkansas Colleges of Health Education continue to hold the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and campus community members paramount. Together, we have been on a journey that saw our campus move to a remote-curriculum delivery in a matter of days. You have attended on-line lectures and taken part in telemedicine rotation experiences. You have participated in countless hours of Teams video meetings and classes. You have learned and worked remotely, been behind closed doors and away from one another for months. You saw our inaugural commencement ceremony on a screen. None of us have experienced anything like this before. The environment you created, both virtually and on campus, continues to inspire me. The dedication, resilience, and creativity you have demonstrated as we responded to the COVID-19 pandemic together allows us to shift our focus to the future to ensure the continuity of the ACHE mission.

Now, our journey takes us to the next step, which may be more monumental than the first. We intend to reopen our campus for the Fall 2020 semester.

In a few short weeks, ACHE students will join us and you who are among them will rejoin our campus community. This document outlines not only the steps we have taken to date, but also our plan moving forward.

1. ACHE commits to the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community. ACHE closely monitors the COVID-19 situation following guidance from local and national authorities.

2. A robust safety protocol plan was enacted May 18 by the COVID-19 Campus Response Taskforce. These protocols include, but are not limited to:
   a. Temperature screenings of all who enter
   b. Restriction of ingress and egress
   c. Facial coverings for all who enter

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d. Restricted building hours
  
e. Increased sanitation efforts
  
f. Socially distanced lecture halls, meeting spaces, classrooms, and common areas
  
3. ACHE phased re-opening for faculty and staff beginning with essential employees and moved to restricted student access for essential business reasons only through the summer months.
  
4. The Colleges have prepared a variety of strategies to offer classroom and virtual instruction methods allowing professors and students to quickly pivot should the situation demand. New and dynamic technology is being installed in college classrooms allowing for interactive and high-quality instruction across programs. Personal protective equipment will be provided for all lab learning environments.
  
5. ACHE will hold a modified in-person new student orientation program for all new ACHE students. Delivery will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual events for ACHE students. Campus Housing has been modified adjusting roommate availability, and student clubs have new protocol for meetings and events.
  
6. Events and campus gatherings will be considered on a case-by-case basis with all safety precautions in place. Virtual social programming that began in Spring 2020, will also continue in Fall 2020.
  
Full details of this six-step plan to reopening are available in our reopening plan, available on our COVID-19 Dashboard. We have learned quickly that this plan will be flexible, and we commit to adjusting as our situation demands. What we will not be flexible with is our commitment to you to continue pushing the ACHE mission forward. ACHE will endure, just as you have during these times.
  
We believe this plan will work and is the best way to ensure the health and safety of our campus community while continuing to offer the high-quality educational
experiences our students expect from ACHE programs. I am optimistic that as we gather – virtually and in person – to welcome each other back this fall semester, we will be prepared and ready.

Sincerely,

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