



PennState
College of Nursing

Message From the Dean

Dean's Update for Faculty and Staff April 1, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Happy April Fool's Day! Hoping most of you have not gotten fooled! Today, the end first: Thank you! You are awesome, inspiring, and innovative. Despite continued challenges we are moving forward creating a new normal for students during an abnormal time. There is no April Fool in how I feel about what you are doing individually and collectively to help our students and one another. You are the best!

What is known and new today:

1. A message from Barb Dewey about library resources can be found here <https://mailchi.mp/psu.edu/a-special-message-from-dean-barbara-i-dewey?e=839d13177f>
2. You may not have your red folder handy, but if you should need it --there is an online version www.redfolder.psu.edu. Remember to practice green folder options like breathing, exercise, and sharing positive ideas and compliments to help us all be well!
3. Continual updates are happening to previously posted university documents, and there is a continuous stream of new guidance, ideas, and information. Morgann is updating and adding to our website so you can look there first when you have a need. If you have concerns or questions, reach out.
4. Messaging continues related to Promotion and Tenure reviews. Faculty who are moving into Year 6 will need to decide by April 30 if they are going to continue to a year 6 review or exercise the option for an extra year. Please talk with your mentor in the next week or two. I will also be reaching out to these faculty members. Those in earlier years can request what is being termed a COVID-19 stay at any point. More guidance is coming.
5. We are proceeding with our 2019 annual reviews and will determine how we will manage our 2020 reviews in the future. Current year, 2019 reviews must be completed by June 30th. Our College reviews are on target to be completed by end of May, which is our usual.
6. Progress on graduation is happening. What I am hearing is we will have an announcement to students in the coming days. The Commencement in May will be a virtual live stream that will be a formal degree conferral by the President. I am being told that we will be able to add a College message, but not exactly certain how that will work. We have had several good ideas and right now we are thinking that we would

send a “box” to each student who is graduating with perhaps a pin, a t-shirt, a certificate. If you have ideas for the box or other ideas that might make this special for our graduates please share your ideas with me or the Associate Deans. Obviously, we have limited funds but want to send a meaningful gift to each of our graduates. The University is also planning an in-person celebration at a later date.

7. Friday, I will meet with our DDAC in a virtual meeting and on Saturday I will meet with the Alumni Board virtually for their meeting. I will update you again next week. Sooner if needed.
8. I will be working on our faculty meeting agenda in the upcoming week. We will have an abbreviated meeting on zoom. I’m hoping to have more on that for you at the end of next week.

Remember the rules: #1 Take care of yourself, #2 Take care of your family, and #3 Continue to focus on our mission. Each of you is necessary to producing the next generation of Penn State Nursing graduates at every level. Those graduates will change the world for the better and touch the lives of millions of people and it will be because of you. You are appreciated, respected, and cherished.

Be well,
Laurie