



## A Message *from the* OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Faculty and Staff:

Some institutions make decisions from the top down, however it has always been my approach to involve as many viewpoints as possible in reaching important decisions. For reopening our University for the fall 2020 semester, our plan will be called "Focus on West Virginia State University."

Today, several small groups of faculty and staff will be appointed to serve on subcommittees that will address different aspects in the development of this plan. If you are asked to participate, please lend your time to this important task so that we can reopen the University by instituting measures for our students, staff and faculty to learn and work in a safe environment.

A Leadership Team has been working on several key issues to consider since March 25, 2020. For this plan, the team will be expanded to include the academic deans and chairs of the Faculty Senate and Staff Council. Currently, subcommittees are being established to discuss concerns from 25 specific topic areas that will need your urgent input.

Subcommittees will be asked to develop plans which will relate to particular measures necessary for a successful reopening in the fall. Each subcommittee will consist of three to five members. I will appoint a chair for each subcommittee who possesses extensive knowledge of the topic. A lay member representing the University and others with general or specific knowledge of the subtopic will be added. By Friday, June 5, 2020, bullet point statements should to be presented for the plan from each subcommittee.

The Leadership Team will review the plans from each subcommittee and recommend measures for the draft plan by Friday, June 12, 2020. Concurrently, our Human Resources, Safety, and Public Safety Directors will also review the recommended measures for their legality, compliance with University policies, and other regulations.

The President's Cabinet will devote Monday, June 15, 2020, to finalizing a draft for "Focus on West Virginia State University." When finalized, this will be our Plan A for reopening face-to-face classes for the fall semester. Plan C will be our current fully online and remote instruction, while plan B will be a hybrid of plans A and C. We must plan, and be ready for all contingencies that may arise.

We must work together for the Good of Our University!

Take care, stay well.



R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.  
Interim President

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