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Good afternoon NDSCS Community –

We have continued to monitor the rapidly changing situation with COVID-19, including monitoring the spread of the disease and public health guidance to slow the spread. We are balancing our responsibility to slow the spread of this virus with ensuring we continue to fulfill our mission. Unfortunately, the situation continues to worsen and, with that responsibility in mind, we have made the difficult decision to extend **distance and online learning through the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester.**

### **Academic Courses**

All courses will continue through distance and online delivery methods through the rest of the spring semester. Face-to-face instruction will not resume. To the greatest extent possible, faculty will continue to utilize technology to enable student learning. This will vary greatly depending on course learning outcomes and content.

### **College Access and Buildings**

Through the end of the semester, students and most employees are discouraged from physically coming to, returning to, or staying on the NDSCS-Wahpeton or NDSCS-Fargo locations unless they have a legitimate reason.

The College remains open with limited staffing. In the immediate timeframe, for those needing to access College services and/or offices, please utilize email or telephone. More information regarding specific support and services will be available early next week.

### **Housing**

NDSCS Residence Halls will be closed and only open to a limited number of pre-approved residents who have no other options or are unable to return/transition to a permanent residence. The small number of students that were planning to transition back to campus for distance and online learning weeks have been contacted directly.

For those students that will need to remain, limited take-out dining options will be available. All students contracted for campus housing through the end of spring semester, but who are currently away from campus, will be emailed in the near future regarding a check-out schedule and procedures for removal of their personal items. Information regarding processing refunds will be forthcoming. Students living in apartments may continue to reside in their apartments.

### **Future Events and Activities**

NDSCS will continue to monitor this changing situation and will communicate about upcoming events and celebrations. At this time, no definitive decisions have been made about the NDSCS Graduation Ceremony scheduled for May 15. A decision regarding summer semester instruction will be made by the end of April.



### **Employees**

Please work with your supervisor to identify how to continue to meet expectations and serve our students. This situation is ever evolving and your flexibility is needed; we stay committed to all our employees.

### **Communication and Updates**

We recognize that this announcement sparks anxiety and many questions. You can expect more information throughout this time of uncertainty.

Please recognize this was not an easy decision, as I believe deeply in the value of face-to-face teaching and learning. However, our highest priority is to keep our communities healthy and safe.

**Your ongoing understanding, patience, and flexibility is appreciated. We are all in this together, and we will get through it.**

In appreciation,

John Richman, Ph.D.  
President | North Dakota State College of Science