



April 19, 2021

To: Wabash Community
From: President Scott Feller and Dr. Ann Taylor
Re: Community Update for April 19, 2021

Hard work paid off last week. Our individual and collective efforts to mitigate COVID-19 led to a test positivity rate just under 0.2%. The Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work highlighted the collaborative work of students and faculty from across the College, work that represents countless hours of effort, done under very different conditions. We congratulate the presenters, mentors, and the Undergraduate Research Celebration Committee, who went above and beyond to provide an in-person milestone event for our campus. Thank you all!

Discussing posters at the Celebration and talking in person with students and colleagues was uplifting and shows us that we are on a path of progress and have much to look forward to. This week's PanHel activities will look a little different—outside, distanced, and masked—but provide an opportunity to demonstrate that our students can be responsible while having fun. Many thanks to the leadership of the IFC for their prioritization of community building. We have other important milestone events in the next few weeks—final examinations and graduation. We are motivated by these [inspirational video messages](#) from CARE Team Leaders Malcolm Lang and Erik Lakomek and hope that you, too, can find a way to finish the semester strong.

While our campus surveillance testing positivity was very low, Montgomery County's status went from blue to yellow this week, and COVID Pass app participation decreased for a third straight week. Campus will be in blue status this week, but a decrease of just a few percentage points in COVID Pass compliance or increased positivity will move the status back to yellow.

Nationally we reached an important milestone with over 50% of adults having received at least a first dose of vaccine. We are fortunate locally to have both a good supply and convenient options for vaccination (www.ourshot.in.gov) and encourage anyone who has not begun the process of vaccination to sign up ASAP. We have fielded a few questions this week about vaccine side effects and recommend a [recent Los Angeles Times article](#) that describes the careful and important work that goes into monitoring safety of all vaccines, including the three currently approved for COVID-19 in the U.S.

We are in the home stretch and we can't let up. Wear a mask, watch your distance, and wash your hands. Let's finish the year strong—together!

With gratitude for you and all you bring to campus,

President Scott Feller
Ann Taylor, Special Assistant to the President for COVID Response and Planning

