



March 23, 2020

To: Wabash Faculty, Staff, and Students
From: President Gregory D. Hess
Re: Wabash's Response to COVID-19; Governor's Executive Order

Earlier today, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb issued an executive order mandating that all Hoosiers stay at home for the next two weeks. The Stay-at-Home Order goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 and continues through at least midnight, April 6. The order applies to the entire state, but exempts those who work at essential businesses or are engaged in essential activities.

Because we still have some students in residence, it will be necessary for us to provide services, including food, healthcare, housing, and other support to the extent possible under the Governor's order. Additionally, we will identify those employees who must perform other core activities critical to our overall operation.

It is our intention to close and lock all College buildings at the end of the work day tomorrow. Faculty and staff who must come to campus to conduct business should do so for the minimum time necessary to perform essential work functions. The Allen Center and Knowling Fieldhouse will be closed at the end of business today until further notice.

To summarize, it is important that all employees of the College work from home to the extent possible over the next two weeks in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus. If you do not need to be on the campus, please stay home and stay healthy. If you have questions, please reach out to your supervisor.

A few other updates follow:

- As Dean Feller mentioned on Friday, it is our intention to host a Virtual Awards Chapel on Thursday, April 23 at 7:00 p.m. Look for more information about this live-streamed event.
- A committee, led by Faculty Marshal and Professor Jim Cherry with input from staff and students Frank Russel and Clark Tinder, is studying options for Commencement, including its likely postponement. They will make recommendations to me before April 1.
- We are in the process of reimagining our annual Day of Giving, and have decided to move Big Bash Reunion Weekend from early June to Fall Break.

I am so sorry, especially for our students, that the academic year is unfolding the way that it has. That said, I continue to be heartened and amazed by the Wabash Always Fights attitude we've had as we tackle this unpredictable challenge with dignity and grace.

