

Wabash.

March 24, 2020

To: Wabash Students, Faculty, and Staff
From: President Gregory D. Hess
Re: Virtual Campus Events and Summer at Wabash

While we continue to manage our response to the COVID-19 virus, we have also begun planning for the months ahead, and as all of you know, spring is typically dotted with traditional, celebratory events.

As Dean Feller announced on Friday, we are moving forward to plan and execute a live stream broadcast of our Awards Chapel on April 23. This will allow us to celebrate the accomplishments of our students over the course of the year. We will provide additional information about how students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni can view the ceremony.

A Virtual Events Task Force has been formed to ensure that our community still has ample opportunity to connect beyond the classroom environment, even while physically separated from campus and each other. Members of our community have already begun this vital work, including the Student Senate's virtual trivia nights and online gaming platforms and "Senior Day" programs for our athletics teams.

More events will be making this jump to virtual hosting in the coming weeks, most notably our first virtual Chapel Talk on April 2 to be given by Professor Derek Nelson at 11:00 a.m. The task force will provide updates, links, and invitations to participate as we move further into this digital space for engagement. Information and links to virtual events will be added to the online Wabash calendar available at <https://www.wabash.edu/calendar>.

If you have an idea or event that you would like to take online, contact the Virtual Events Task Force via email at virtualevents@wabash.edu. Any ideas in any stage of development or further questions are welcome.

For the summer, we have decided to push back the start of all of our campus programs that require students to be in residence until at least Monday, June 15. This includes the CIBE's LABB program, on-campus summer employment, research internships, and all other camps or events. The break from the end of virtual classes until June 15 will allow us to carefully clean all of our facilities and be prepared for the return of students later in the summer and in the fall. Yet if we begin internships on June 15, we can still provide eight full weeks for students to learn and gain experiences. Furthermore, all international internships and programs scheduled for this summer have been canceled or postponed.

None of these decisions are perfect, but we continue to focus on the health of our community and the learning opportunities we provide for our students. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we work together on behalf of our College.