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Dear Members of the Blue Jay Nation,

I write to you today from our small, quiet campus to say that you are on my mind as the nation and the world battle the coronavirus pandemic. At this stage of the challenge, I reach out to you and all of the Blue Jay Nation, near and far, with my warmest wishes for your health and wellness.

Last week, I canceled all in-person instruction and advised students to remain home for the rest of the semester. We still have more than 20 students who remain on campus because they have nowhere to go. Our staff, led by Dean of Student Life Dr. Kasi Lacey, are ensuring that the students remaining here have the food, shelter, and safe environment necessary to successfully complete the semester. I want to compliment our dining service partner, Fresh Ideas, which is working with us to provide to-go meals for our students, who have few options beyond what the hard-working service can provide.

Meanwhile, we are adapting our academic instruction to ensure that our students receive the best possible experience to achieve our course outcomes. Through the knowledgeable and creative efforts of our faculty, we are employing our Digital Blue technology to allow students to experience the benefit of quality academic instruction without being unnecessarily exposed to the virus. While online instruction has its limitations when compared to face-to-face interaction, the tools available in today's high-tech environment are facilitating some highly creative solutions to course delivery. I am immensely proud of the work of our faculty, led by Dean Roebuck, as they have adapted to these challenging circumstances in continuing to deliver premier instruction to our students in a seamless manner.

At this time, we are also encouraging our staff to maximize their use of remote capabilities to keep the campus engine running while simultaneously minimizing the exposure of our Blue Jays to the virus. While we are in this emergency mode, we

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coronavirus crisis, please visit our website at [www.wcmo.edu](http://www.wcmo.edu) and click on the "COVID-19 Plan" link.

I know that we will learn a lot about ourselves and our relationships as we face this crisis. One strong aspect of Westminster College is its characteristic resilience throughout the last century and a half. We have withstood the challenges of wars, disease, financial crashes and crises, terrorist attacks, and countless other hardships in our 169 years of existence. This is our time to write a new page of Westminster history, where we demonstrate our strength of character, our indomitable spirit, and our willingness to work together to weather this terrible storm. I expect we will emerge from this crisis stronger and wiser.

As we meet the daunting challenges we face as a community and as a nation, let us follow the advice of our public health professionals and do our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

And, let us all care for one another.

With warm regards,



Fletcher M. Lamkin, Ph.D.  
President of the College

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