



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

February 18, 2021

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back from an unusually long winter break. I hope you were able to find this time to be productive and restful.

I'm pleased to announce that thanks to your efforts to adhere to Daemen's health and safety regulations during this pandemic, the college's positivity rate is at .002. We tested 1,250 people last week yielding only 3 positive cases. This is an astonishingly low positivity rate, and I want to thank you for your continued diligence and persistence with managing our new normal. I think you would also like to know that we currently have 185 people who have received both rounds of the vaccination and 253 who have received the first shot, awaiting the second. This is exciting progress as we near what we hope is the end of this pandemic. Please remember, though, not to let your guard down; please continue to practice all of the required safety measures: respect to protect.

Another encouraging update is that the college has currently awarded \$922,751 to 1,032 students from the second round of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund allocation. We expect to award the remaining \$14,000 this week. We are delighted to be able to assist our neediest students during this difficult time.

You should also know that another point of pride for the college is the continued commitment to academic rigor and integrity throughout the pandemic. Dr. Lee Allard, Director of Institutional Research, reported that his office conducted a comparison of the grade distribution at the college for fall 2019 and fall 2020 that indicated that there was very little change in grade distribution from one term to the next. These results, though preliminary, suggest that we have been able to maintain our academic rigor and integrity despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, while still ensuring that our students achieve a high level of academic success. A pass-fail option was offered to students during the pandemic, but fewer than two percent of students selected this option. These data clearly demonstrate what a great job our faculty are doing during this time of crisis.

As you can see, the college has much to be proud of. Thank you for your commitment, and I wish you a safe and productive spring semester.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President