



Campus Update from Dr. Vargas

Dear Alumni and Friends,

You are all in our thoughts during these challenging times. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak is sweeping the world and changing by the hour, I want to assure you that we are doing our very best to help respond to this escalating public health threat.

First, I would like to acknowledge all of you who are working in medical settings and on the front lines of caregiving with this outbreak in your communities. We salute your unselfish efforts and wish you well during these very difficult weeks.

Currently we do not have any COVID-19 cases on any of Southeast's campuses. We nevertheless continue to take proactive steps to aid in the effort to contain the spread of this virus for the benefit and wellness of our students, faculty, staff, and the community. Many individuals on our campuses have been working tirelessly to respond to this pandemic. As a result, we have made some difficult and unprecedented decisions.

To bring you up to speed on the latest news from the University, our students will be learning through alternative delivery methods through the end of the semester, and most of them will be moving out of our residence halls in the coming days. To continue delivering top quality education to our students, our faculty members are rapidly transitioning coursework to alternative delivery modes. Also, to continue to provide both safe and exceptional service to our students and to our larger community, our staff will temporarily shift on-campus operations this week to a remote work environment. This telework arrangement will continue through April 19 when we will reevaluate the status of the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am greatly appreciative of our campus community's efforts to pivot so quickly. As this situation continues to evolve, the health and safety of our Southeast community remains our primary objective. If you would like to stay current on how we are responding to COVID-19, please check semo.edu/sealerts/covid-19 for periodic and frequent updates.

On behalf of everyone at the University, I would like to express my appreciation to our students and their families who have displayed grace and patience throughout this transition process and who have shown their willingness to face the challenges head-on that come with these major changes. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our faculty and staff, who have shown their willingness to adapt to unplanned changes and explore new approaches and strategies to work one-on-one with hundreds of students to help them overcome challenges.

We are all committed to the success of our students, even during these extraordinary times. And we greatly appreciate you for your continued support of our University. With all of us working together and with our collective *Will To Do*, we will weather this storm.

We look forward to reuniting on campus again soon. In the meantime, be safe and stay well!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Vargas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlos Vargas
President

