

Friday, March 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for all of your efforts in preparation for our first week providing instruction and student services online. I remain impressed with the care that has gone into your syllabi adjustments, communications with students, and our new ways of professional interaction. You are wonderful colleagues. Please know that all of the [trainings and workshops](#) held this week are recorded and available, and you can also sign up for individual or small group refreshers in the weeks ahead.

As you saw on Wednesday, the Department of Housing and Dining Services has implemented [a system for students to move out](#) of the residence halls by March 30. Housing and Dining has worked diligently and quickly to create this process, but there is always a possibility of delay. Some of our students may not have their materials until the second week of our instructional return, so please remember to exercise patience and flexibility when possible.

Of course, our students are not the only ones who are moving out of University spaces. Today is the last day that buildings will be open so that we may freely collect the materials we need to remotely continue instruction, student services, and administration for the rest of the semester. Some of us are also closing down labs and otherwise preparing for pauses or major disruptions to our research, scholarship, creative activity and discovery (RSCAD). Please remember that with the exception of those mission critical or otherwise informed units and/or individuals, we should wrap up our campus activity today and follow [the guidance to remain off campus](#) that we received on March 18, 2020.

I know the combination of the mandates to adjust our teaching and to exit buildings in just one week makes for an extraordinarily difficult and emotional time. So while I am grateful for your commitment to keep teaching, to keep researching, and to keep serving, please remember to stop working; take lots of breaks and be flexible about when and how much you can do. Spend time replenishing and doing things you love. Sleep. Let's continue to be kind and careful with each other and with ourselves.

Today may feel cold and gloomy. But yesterday was the first day of spring and we saw the promise of sunshine and new growth. Let's hold on to that promise as we begin next week and our new life at Kansas State University.

In the meantime, thank you.

In solidarity,

Tanya González
2019-2020 Faculty Senate President