

# ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 24, 2021

Dear EC Community,

We are nearing the end of our first month of in-person classes, and it is encouraging to see our coronavirus numbers remain low. With only 5 total cases (students and employees) since January 11, I am proud of the continued precautions each of you take to keep our campus community safe.

Part of those precautions include the random testing that is occurring each week, and participation is strong. A reminder that if you are contacted by the Clarke Health Center for random testing, you must participate even if you have had the vaccine – we want to be sure the vaccine is doing what it should.

Even as more individuals are receiving the vaccine, it is still important for everyone to follow our campus COVID-19 protocols, including physical distancing and wearing a mask.

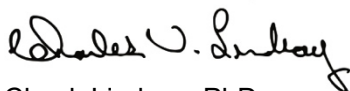
The Governor's office continues to announce changes to NYS guidelines and we monitor those changes closely. It is important to remember that there are specific guidelines for specific industries, such as higher education, and that county health departments have the option to adjust restrictions based on the local infection rates. We continue to confer with the Chemung County Health Department on the guidelines that apply to the College.

I know that Commencement is on the minds of many campus community members, especially the Class of 2021. We are exploring options for this year's event, and **a final decision has not yet been made**. Even with relaxing regulations and promising vaccines, it's impossible to know what the County and NYS guidelines will be in June. To allow enough time for planning and making arrangements, a decision must be made by mid- to late-March. The final decision will be based on the knowledge we have at the time, a review of our plan by the Chemung County Health Department, and what type of ceremony will provide a memorable, yet safe experience for all involved. I will share the final decision with the campus community.

While this past year has presented challenges, I have been heartened and energized by the many comments and stories shared on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) related to the "Elmira is My Place" challenge. Whether it's a special relationship with a faculty member, singing EC songs, or sitting on the hillside by The Puddle (in warmer weather), the shared stories of favorite spaces, EC quirkiness, leadership opportunities and traditions resonate throughout the Class years. If you haven't yet shared your #MyElmira favorite, I encourage you to do so today. The names of everyone (students, employees, and alumni) who participated throughout the month will be entered into a special drawing on Friday, February 26 – our first Spirit Day of 2021.

Our EC pride runs deep, and I am grateful for the dedication of our students, faculty, and staff as we navigate this unprecedented year. I am proud to be a Soaring Eagle, and proud to say this is #MyElmira.

Be It Ever So!



Chuck Lindsay, PhD  
President