



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

EC Community Update June 17, 2020

Dear EC Community,

I hope this email finds you and your families well. I know many are waiting anxiously for a decision on the Fall 2020 Term I. Thank you for your patience, and I am happy to share that, barring any future government restrictions, Elmira College will be open for in-person classes this fall.

While we are located in a geographic area that has avoided significant infection, the health and safety of our entire campus community is a top priority. Planning over the past few weeks has resulted in what I believe is an informed, well thought-out plan that adopts the latest guidelines from health care officials while offering maximum flexibility should our understanding of the COVID-19 virus shift. However, as New York State and local health guidelines change, these plans will be updated to meet those guidelines.

With the anticipated move to Phase 4 of the New York Forward plan, College employees will return to work and offices will fully reopen on Monday, June 29. Students will return to campus, as originally scheduled: August 27 for incoming students and August 30 for returning students. For Term I, we intend to follow a condensed schedule, without decreasing intellectual contact between faculty and students, that will have students home by Thanksgiving in case there is a late-fall resurgence of COVID-19. Fall 2020 classes will begin in person, as scheduled, on Monday August 31 and run through Friday November 20, after which Thanksgiving break will begin. Final exams will be administered online from November 30-December 4, with students staying home through the Winter Break and until Term II begins. An overview of the Term I calendar is below.

Aug. 27-30	Fall Orientation
Aug. 30	Move-In for Returning Students
Aug. 31	Fall 2020 Classes Begin
Oct. 29 & 30	Fall Break
Nov. 21	Final Day of Fall 2020 Classes
Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Online Final Exams

Faculty and administration are working to ensure a safe environment for students. Given our small class sizes, we are able to arrange classrooms in a way that promotes social distancing. Specialty areas such as labs, clinics, research spaces, and simulations that have specific limitations will have proper protocols posted outside those areas. We are working with our dining services provider, Parkhurst, to ensure a systematic and safe environment for meals. We have adjusted the flow in and out of campus buildings to allow for one-way traffic with hand sanitizing stations at the entrances to most buildings.

We understand that for some in our community who have preexisting health issues, living and learning on campus raises reasonable concerns. We are working with these individuals to determine the ways in which the College can best assist.

While the NCAA and Empire 8 Conference are currently working to recommend competition and practice guidelines, it is the College's full intention that all athletics teams will compete during their regular seasons.

The safety and health of all students and employees is our primary concern. We are in regular contact with staff at Arnot Ogden Medical Center and the Chemung Co. Health Department, along with the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, to ensure we are meeting all local health guidelines. As student groups return to campus, initial testing for COVID-19 will take place through the Clarke Health Center in partnership with Arnot Health. Additional testing will occur randomly throughout the Term, with daily screenings also required.

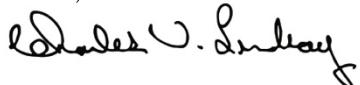
Full details on everything from academics and residential life to screening, testing, and isolating protocols are available on elmira.edu/soaring-forward. Content will be updated on a regular basis to meet evolving NYS and local health guidelines.

Elmira College has a tradition of offering a robust campus experience with many beloved traditions such as Mountain Day and Octagon Fair, and I know many are looking forward to participating in them again. This fall, we may need to explore adaptations for these traditions, but that's part of making history. Mountain Day today is not the same as it was in 1919 when it first started, yet it remains one of the most beloved traditions. Our students are resilient and I look forward to seeing how they will make their mark on these traditions just as others have before them.

I look forward to seeing you on campus in just two short months!

Sincerely,

Yours,



Chuck Lindsay, PhD
President