Dear Colleagues,

Last week, we were able to share some guiding principles around summer and fall planning for our campus in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In step with our system, we are approaching the coming months with a flexible framework that allows us to be agile, yet resilient. Simply put, we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and faculty, while also considering the unique clinical, lab and simulation experiences, and curricular structures specific to the health sciences. These scenarios are distinctly different from those encountered by other students within the University's system, often placing our students in environments, such as health care settings, that involve a higher degree of risk.

To that end, each of our colleges made progress over the past several days in operationalizing these principles. Leadership, faculty and staff in each of our colleges are to be commended for their dogged commitment to the well-being of all in formalizing their plans. Leaders in our colleges have also accounted for directives from the state of Washington, along with guidance from their respective accrediting bodies and professional organizations. The following are brief summaries specific to educational delivery for the colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Education in the coming months, yet please note, colleges and departments will be following up with students and providing more details in the coming days and weeks.

**College of Medicine**

For the 2020-21 academic year, **first- and second-year medical students** in the WSU College of Medicine will use a "learn-in-place" model, which means elements of its curriculum (the didactic coursework) will take place virtually and students will learn from
locations across Washington. This aligns with the college's community-based model of medical education and its immersion of students in hands-on lessons, oftentimes in the same Washington communities they will eventually serve upon graduating.

In-person learning will occur in small groups for clinical skills and other experiences best achieved face-to-safe, with appropriate safety measures. The exact frequency and locations are still being determined but are anticipated to take place at clinical campus locations.

For **third- and fourth-year medical students**, the college is preparing to return these students to their clinical learning environments in June and July 2020.

The **departments of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology and Speech and Hearing Sciences** are continuing to work through details specific to their learning environments, but students will likely experience some combination of in-person and virtual learning.

**College of Nursing**

For the 2020-21 academic year, classes that normally meet in classrooms or conference rooms will be delivered virtually. Nursing clinical skills development, simulation lab experiences, and clinical experiences will be held in-person utilizing appropriate safety measures.

**College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

- **For fall semester 2020 PharmD classes**, all classes that normally meet in classrooms or conference rooms will be delivered virtually. Skills-laboratory content will be delivered virtually as well.

- **For spring semester 2021 PharmD classes**, all classes that normally meet in classrooms or conference rooms will be delivered in-person, as is safe to do so. Skills-laboratory content and assessments will be delivered in-person, again, as is safe to do so.

- **For fall and spring semester 2020-21 PhD classes and seminars**, those classes that can be safely delivered via small, in-person group settings will do so, while other larger classes will be delivered virtually. Face-to-face research orientation and training will be conducted in laboratories.

**College of Education**

For next academic year, since most of the College of Education students at WSU Spokane are working in schools as either student teachers or principal interns, teaching and other learning experiences are highly dependent on decisions determined by the K-12 system with respect to face-to-face or virtual instruction. The college is monitoring the situation closely and anticipates the likely need for a variety of instructional formats and is prepared for any eventuality. One of the hallmarks of the
college for many years is distance education. Whatever approach is required, the college will deliver high quality instruction and real-world experiences, with a priority for the health and safety of students, staff, faculty, and community members.

While this pandemic has impacted how we teach and our students learn, we remain diligent in our commitment to deliver the best experience possible for our students. We remain closely engaged with state and accreditation partners, who continue to share our resolve in safely preparing successful health professionals and educators that will serve our state.

Also, I wanted to recognize the faculty, staff and students who have stepped up in amazing ways during this time of great challenge. We are grateful for what you are doing. Rest assured, we continue to put the safety, health, and well-being of our campus community first in our decision-making.

Sincerely,

Daryll DeWald
Vice President and Chancellor
WSU Health Sciences Spokane