



Office of the President
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Dear Colleagues,

There are no words to express our gratitude and our pride in your remarkable work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Almost overnight, the crisis turned your lives upside down. Most of you packed up your offices and moved them home to spare rooms and kitchen tables. You left behind coworkers and the daily rhythms of life. While adapting to your new, unfamiliar workplaces, many of you inherited even bigger duties to juggle at the same time, including teaching children whose classrooms also were moved home or watching younger ones whose day care has been shuttered.

Some of you have had to travel to your office periodically, part of a devoted team across the system providing essential services to keep our business and financial operations running.

Whether stationed on campus or at home, every one of you took on the added worries that we all share about the welfare of our families and friends, our students and colleagues, our communities and our world.

Through it all, every facet of our important work has continued unabated. In fact, you have helped support historic initiatives, from the shift to online and distance learning to our many contributions to help state and federal officials manage the pandemic and slow the spread of the virus.

We know firsthand how difficult it has been and we now ask one more thing. Please make time to take care of yourself. Talk regularly with family and friends – on the phone, online or with six feet between you. Stay connected with coworkers and share ideas about working from home, homeschooling or good TV shows to binge-watch. Get outside to work in the yard, till a garden or take a walk. Take advantage of the many support services that are offered by our Human Resources office. And in these unusual times, cut yourself some slack if you don't always live up to your usual work standards.

From the beginning, the University of Illinois System's standing as a world leader in education and innovation has been defined by our people. You are writing the next chapter in our rich legacy, and we offer our deepest thanks to all of you for your resilience, sacrifice and commitment.

Take good care of yourselves and we hope to see you again *in person* very soon.

Tim Killeen
President

Barb Wilson
Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Avijit Ghosh
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Ed Seidel
Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation