April 6, 2020

Dear master’s students,

We recognize this is a time of unprecedented stress for all of our students. In addition to concern about your own health and safety, and that of your loved ones, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted your lives and has changed the ways in which you engage with your coursework, your mentors, and your peers. Please know that we share your worries and are here to help.

Our highest priority is ensuring that your fundamental needs, such as food and shelter, are addressed. To that end, we would like to remind you that Duke has established a Student Assistance Fund to provide resources to help students in immediate financial distress. This fund is now open for applications with a goal of providing relief to those who need it as quickly as possible.

We are equally concerned about your emotional health and well-being. A new service, bluedevilscare.duke.edu, provides mental telehealth support for all students regardless of your location. You can access the service by using the key DUKE2020.

Finally, we encourage you to stay in close contact with your faculty and programs directors for the latest information as well as academic and career support. We are all in very unsettling times and promise to work with you on successfully fulfilling your educational goals.

We wish you the very best and hope that you, your friends, and family stay safe and well.

Sally Kornbluth, Provost

Paula D. McClain, Dean of The Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education