



Millersville University

P.O. Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551-0302
www.millersville.edu

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Phone: 717-871-7555
Fax: 717-871-7952

June 16, 2020

Dear University Faculty,

There continue to be many unanswered questions regarding the upcoming fall semester from the K-12 and higher education sectors. Academic Affairs will be adopting the stance that we need to be prepared for multiple scenarios that may impact our ability to operate this fall. Additionally, we need to be prepared for resurgences of the COVID-19 virus that would necessitate the need for us to operate remotely for any part of the upcoming semester while being mutually concerned with the quality of online activities and interactions in our academic offerings during that time. Regardless of what scenario is adopted to open the campus in the fall, a majority of our classes will be taught using online or other remote learning modalities. In order to successfully prepare for the variations that may be thrust upon us, we need to equip ourselves now with a broader array of knowledge and skills.

As you are aware, the transition to remote learning requires both skills and knowledge of technologies and pedagogical approaches, as well as innovative and flexible thinking. It is imperative that we look at our goals for learning within a course and decide what objectives need to be met and in so doing, choose the best tools to deliver corresponding educational content and structure engagement opportunities. I want you to take time to expand your knowledge of online pedagogy as well as some of the resources that you have at your disposal while thinking about our fall semester. Again, I am not confident that this virus will not cause us to make last minute changes to ensure your safety and that of our students. Preparing for online instruction now will alleviate some of the stress when and if we need to make changes.

Please explore and become more comfortable with the following resources. You will find direction for expanding your use of D2L, targeted strategies for interaction and course development as well as a select number of articles developed for and by faculty preparing to move to remote and online instruction. A calendar of live synchronous sessions is also being developed by campus instructional designers and the Center for Academic Excellence. These sessions will begin on July 7, and will explore pedagogical innovations related to a variety of remote education modalities relevant to a range of disciplines. Links to sessions will be updated in the coming weeks.

The available resources I would like you to explore and become comfortable with include:

- [Preparation for Fall Instruction: Main page](#)
 - D2L Basics Task list
 - Online and Remote Teaching Strategy Pages
 - Synchronous Support Sessions hosted by I&TS and CAE (upcoming)
 - Brightspace D2L Fusion Conference
 - Scholarly Resource and Reference
- Self-Paced D2L Training for Instructors (Within “Resources for Faculty and Instructors” on D2L Home Page)

You have already demonstrated your ability to successfully transition to remote learning in a short period of time and I have no doubt that you will amaze everyone this fall semester. I want you to proactively build your skills sets so we can lessen the stress and frustration impending transitions may cause. With preparation, we can be poised to embrace any change with ease and minor adjustments. Now is the time to embrace an opportunity to enhance your learning so you can continue to engage your students regardless of delivery model or models that we will need to utilize this fall and beyond. Utilize these shared resources and engage your colleagues in open dialogues about best practices.

Thank you,

Vilas A. Prabhu, Ph.D., M.B.A.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs