Dear Parents, Guardians, and Family members of North Park University students,

In view of the current and changing global health concerns around the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to write to you directly today to reassure you of the steps we are taking to protect the health of our students, the safety of our campus activities and the well-being of the broader North Park University community.

First, let me assure you that we have had no cases of COVID-19 at or near North Park. We have been holding all classes in regular session and all activities have proceeded on their normal schedule. Today, we are preparing for the start of spring break, when most students will leave campus to spend time at home with family and friends or participate in University activities across the country.

Like other universities in Chicago and across the nation – and based on the latest advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – we have prudently cancelled all University-sponsored international spring break travel due to the evolving nature of the situation.

All University-related domestic travel will proceed as planned.

We continue to monitor the situation daily, and North Park’s Emergency Management Team is meeting regularly to plan for any situations we may encounter. We will monitor the recommendations and precautions issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, along with the Illinois Department of Public Health. We will continue to approach all decisions thoughtfully and nimbly – and keep our campus fully informed with updates and information.

My main goal in writing to you today is to assure you that we have your student’s health and well-being at the top of our minds. Their safety is our highest priority. As the parent of a college student myself, I know it can feel unsettling to be removed from daily situations that may affect the health and safety of your child. Know that we are monitoring the situation very carefully, we will continue to communicate regularly with our campus community, and we will keep you informed as well.

Thank you for your support and encouragement of your student! The spring semester will resume as scheduled on Monday morning March 16, 2020. May God bless and keep you with good health and safety.

With gratitude and respect,

Mary K. Surridge
President

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