



August 26, 2020

To All Faculty and Staff:


As we transition from months of intense planning, adaptations to those plans due to changed circumstances, evolving health conditions and government guidance, and numerous implementation complications and details, we wanted to take this opportunity to extend our profound gratitude to all members of our faculty and staff.

So many have worked so long and so hard to prepare for the fall semester—from reorienting courses for online and hybrid learning; launching Deans’ seminar series; developing a new fall schedule to accommodate many constraints and preferences; bolstering internship and career placement services; keeping in touch with new and returning students to welcome them for the fall semester; caring for students quarantining from states on New Jersey’s travel advisory list; installing signage, decals, and acrylic dividers; reviewing students’ financial aid appeals and CARES Act applications; working through dozens of details necessary to offer on-campus COVID-19 testing; to many, many more large and small tasks that have been completed or are underway to prepare for the fall semester.

These past months have been among the most challenging of our careers and lives. Collectively, we have faced these challenges with resiliency, collegiality, and with the best interests of our university community—and our strategic priority of “student centricity”—in mind. Our preparations for the fall have been both complicated and fierce. Hindsight will tell us what we did right and what we might have improved. We will begin the semester with a sense of hopeful optimism and an appropriate sense of caution. But we will begin the semester thanks to each and every one of you.

In the last days of summer, amid the flurry of continuing preparations and rapid problem-solving on many fronts, please take a moment to reflect on all that we have accomplished in the face of unparalleled challenges and to know that your efforts and hard work are sincerely appreciated.

Per aspera ad astra,


Nariman Farvardin
President

Christophe Pierre
Provost