



May 19, 2020

Dear Students:

Like all of you, we are hoping to reopen our beautiful campus residentially in the fall and restart all of our excellent educational and co-curricular programs again. We want all of us back living and learning together.

Thoughtfully and carefully, we are planning to welcome all of you back to campus and to all of our outstanding facilities as part of the *Heidelberg University Institutional Reopening Plan*, which we submitted to the Seneca County General Health District, as required, on Monday, May 18, 2020. We want all of us back living and learning together.

For these reasons, we are expecting to teach, engage, and grow with all of you in the best ways that we know how in our classrooms and labs, on our stages and fields, and through all the wonderful group and campus activities that make our University experience distinctive. We want all of us back living and learning together.

Therefore, we are preparing everything at Heidelberg to be ready for your healthy and safe return in the fall, including our highly desired in-person classroom delivery of academic programs complemented by much-needed synchronous and asynchronous online learning options for student flexibility, our new and renovated classroom and residential spaces, and the exciting breadth of extracurricular activities that students want to pursue. We want all of us back living and learning together.

The COVID-19 global health and financial crisis has challenged each of us individually and all of us together. It can be overwhelming. We need to return and regather as one Heidelberg campus community to go forward stronger and safely together. The size and rural location of our campus give us measured confidence that we can effectively and responsibly provide a safe living and learning environment for everyone this fall, given the current circumstances. All of our collective efforts and planning have taken aim at that critical goal now.

Here are a few of the preparations that are ongoing or planned for the late spring and summer months in anticipation of your return to campus:

- Returning students are currently registering for Fall Semester classes.
- The residential housing selection process is proceeding with the room lottery scheduled to begin this week.

- Fall schedules for incoming students will be created by the Owen Center for Teaching and Learning in June and July. Incoming students need to complete the Academic Advising Appointment Survey to begin their advising process.
- New Student Housing Selection will begin in July as usual.
- New Student Orientation has been rescheduled for July and August. We are hoping this can take place in person on campus but we are planning for different scenarios if we have to go online.
- Heidelberg faculty will continue with training and planning for enhanced distance learning options during June and July.
- As essential workers, the Krammes Services Center team continues its work to take care of campus landscaping and work has begun to deep-clean and prepare the residence halls.
- Construction continues on the new Main Street Townhomes and the France Residence Hall restoration/renovation project. The townhomes are expected to be ready for occupancy as planned in late August. France Hall will be finished by the end of the fall term.
- Parkhurst Dining has developed its new food service preparation and delivery procedures to ensure great-tasting food in a safe dining environment on our campus.
- We are preparing to implement the extensive policies, procedures, and protocols of our *Heidelberg University Institutional Reopening Plan*.

We will stay in touch and communicate with you about the 2020 Fall Semester as we finalize our plans to reopen. In the meantime, stay safe, continue to practice social distancing, and we hope that we'll see you on campus this fall.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Huntington, Ed.D.
President

Christopher T. Abrams, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Affairs

Bryan D. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost