



August 24, 2020

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Congratulations on returning safely to campus, getting COVID-19 PCR tested, and moving in over the past week, and on starting fall semester classes remotely today! All of us – you faculty, your staff, and your administration – have been waiting for this moment with great anticipation, excitement, and hope since closing the campus in March.

I want to applaud the awesome video message, “Welcome Back Students - Different but Good,” from Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams to all of you last night. We can succeed together!

We have completed about 1,290 tests for our COVID-19 Campus Mass Testing protocol. We need this Heidelberg community health baseline data. We will post aggregate campus results soon. Now all students must self-quarantine at home or on campus this week as we wait for all test results. I acknowledge how hard it is for you to start classes online, stay in the residence halls, and eat in your rooms. I appreciate you for accepting this responsibility and commitment.

Everyone at Heidelberg shares the same goal right now ... we want to have a safe, healthy, and successful residential semester while facing the ongoing threat of the Coronavirus pandemic. It is incredibly challenging to reopen Heidelberg and reawaken our wonderful community at this moment. We all see the growing number of colleges and universities around the country that have restarted and then been forced to go online and pullback due to a large infection outbreak.

We face the same risks. Nothing is easy right now. We can succeed together!

We must work diligently and intentionally for our shared common goal. If we each adhere to the [Heidelberg University Pledge of Health & Safety](#) and keep ourselves mutually accountable for following our posted COVID-19 safety protocols, we can make it to November 20th successfully. That is a special date on my calendar. If our community gets there, we will be stronger and our chances of returning safely in January for the second semester will be greater too.

One week in self-quarantine with online classes now. Then we can return to residential learning, safe cocurricular activities, and more regular dining next week.

We can succeed together ... Student Princes will succeed together!

Thank you.

Rob Huntington
President