



March 27, 2020

Dear CDU Students, Faculty and Staff:

Just over a week into our new world of online classes, telecommuting and a closed campus, I sincerely hope that you and your family are staying healthy and well. We know there are many who have lost family, friends and loved ones, and many who have been seriously affected financially by the closure of businesses to control the spread COVID-19. Let us keep our thoughts and prayers with all of them.

CDU faculty, staff and students are making the necessary adjustments to continue our primary mission of educating the diverse health workforce our communities and country need, and I thank you again for your continued flexibility while keeping a focus on education.

If the COVID-19 crisis demonstrates anything, it is that this University's Mission is more important and necessary than ever. We know that the under-resourced communities from which we draw many of our students and to which many of them return to practice will be disproportionately affected by the novel coronavirus. So, we should all be proud of our effort to bring health equity to these areas.

This emergency also reminds us just how small our world is and how interconnected we are. When our individual health depends upon the adherence to public health measures of *everyone*—at your local grocery store, throughout our county and really, the entire country—we realize how interdependent we are, and how important it is that we understand that we're all in this together.

So, I would encourage you to check in on neighbors, particularly any who you know might be at risk—the elderly, the immunocompromised and especially anyone living by themselves. We're in a period of great social isolation, and it's likely to continue. Anything we can do to increase our sense of community can be a helpful antidote to the sense of estrangement we all feel.

Let us all do what we can to stay healthy and safe, and keep others healthy and safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Carlisle".

Dr. David M. Carlisle, President/CEO
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

P.S. Remember that Monday is a University holiday, Cesar Chavez Day.