

Dear Students, Parents, Colleagues and Friends of Greenville University,

The communication from Greenville University yesterday indicated we desired to have students return to campus to begin face-to-face classes as scheduled. Taking into account our rural location, no reported cases in our county, our relationship with the city and health officials, and the risk mitigation strategies we had already put into place, we believed we were acting in the best interest of our students to have them return to campus on Monday.

Today, due to continual monitoring from state agencies and the statements released by the governor of the state of Illinois in the last 24 hours, we reconsidered our position and changed course, believing that to act in the best interest of our students and our community going forward, we needed to extend spring break a week and prepare for online academic delivery for our students.

We acknowledge that GU's culture of community makes this situation tough. The classroom experience, interaction with faculty, and close-knit groups of students are core to the transformative education we as an institution and our students truly value. I am personally saddened that our students will not get to participate with seniors in final games and performances, and some of the hallmark curricular and co-curricular experiences on campus will not occur.

These decisions come with great thought and concern for the disruptions to the lives of our students, our faculty, parents, and community members. However, our responsibility to students, their families, and our amazing staff and faculty requires that we rise to the occasion and utilize a different approach to learning for the remainder of the semester. I personally want to thank our professors, our students and their families in advance for the extra time and effort that this decision will require from all of you.

Thank you so much for your dedication to GU and for pressing in during this difficult time.

Suzanne