



Dear Vandal Parents and Family Members,

Earlier this week, I walked across our beautiful campus. The sun was out, and signs of spring were everywhere. Green shoots are jutting out of flower beds, trees are forming their buds, and even insects are stirring and flying about. Yet, as we all know, spring on our University of Idaho campus is going to be very different than those of the past.

We have moved all of our classes to remote delivery methods, canceled our [Commencement](#) ceremonies and are practicing social distancing throughout the campus in response to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#). To say I am deeply saddened and already missing our students and the bustling activity that accompanies their presence would be an understatement. Our unique residential learning

would be an understatement. Our unique residential learning environment is certainly one of the differentiators that makes the University of Idaho special.

Over the past several days, I have heard from numerous Vandal faculty, staff, students and even alumni with stories of frustration. Frustration with the unknown. Frustration that classes are moving online for the remainder of the semester. Frustration that we canceled graduation ceremonies. Frustration that our hard-working Women's Basketball Team, despite earning the right, will not have the chance to play in the Big Sky Tournament championship game. I share these frustrations, but I also recognize that we have to protect the elderly and others at risk in our community from a new and dangerous threat.

To be honest, we don't know what it will take to return to normal at our Moscow campus or at our centers across the state. We are in a constantly changing situation covering new ground and frankly, I am not sure of what all lies ahead. What I can promise you is that we will continue to make decisions we believe are in the best interests of our Vandal Family and will keep you informed.

Vandals are Brave and Bold and willing to step up to any challenge. I am confident that, together, we will not only manage through this crisis, but come out the other side stronger and more prepared for the future.

I want to thank you, the parents and family members of our students. This has been a difficult time, but your response has been one of understanding and grace in a time of uncertainty. We will do our best to recognize the accomplishments of our graduating seniors. It is a life-changing accomplishment that should not be taken for granted. At a minimum, they will be invited to join us for our in-person ceremonies in December or next May.

Rest assured, we will provide pro-rated housing and meal credits for those who do not return to campus from Spring Break. There is no need to rush back to campus to collect belongings. As long as your student is no longer living in campus housing or utilizing the related meal plans you will receive the full pro-rated credit even if they have

meal plans, you will receive the full pro rated credit even if they have not had a chance to retrieve their belongings.

We will do our best to continue to support our students, even if remotely, to ensure they have the information and services they need to complete their coursework this semester.

Blaine Eckles, our dean of students and vice provost for student affairs, will be sending you a follow-up communication soon with more campus-specific information to assist you with moving forward.

I ask that during this time we all take care of each other by doing what we can to limit the spread of this threat to our greater community. My thoughts are with our extended Vandal Family and I hope that we and our families remain safe.

Here at U of I, we will Keep Calm and Vandal On.

C. Scott Green  
President

P.S.: FAQs and additional information for parents and families are available at our [coronavirus webpage](#).