

April 2020 COVID-19 Updates from the EGSC Office of the President

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ARCHIVED
The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration ended at midnight on May 11, 2023.
Information for archival use only.

Message to EGSC Faculty and Staff

April 02, 2020

Dear EGSC Faculty and Staff,

The following important information was received this morning from the University System of Georgia:

"May and summer semester instruction will be delivered remotely with limited exceptions. USG institutions will return to normal operations for fall semester assuming health conditions allow for it. All institutions should continue to implement their current telework and flexible work strategies so that only a minimum number of staff are on campus to maintain operations and support remote instruction. The Governor's Executive Orders on schools and shelter in place allow for continued access to remote education and maintaining minimal operations for students, faculty and staff."

I have also attached the Executive Order about Georgia schools which was issued by Governor Kemp yesterday.

Look for more information coming later today.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Bob Boehmer

President

Downloads

- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order - April 1, 2020](#) (PDF)

Message to EGSC Faculty/Staff

April 03, 2020

Dear EGSC faculty and staff,

Earlier this week, I sent you information about the Governor's extension of his Executive Order concerning wholly online instruction by all USG institutions (See my message prior to this to Faculty/Staff and the first attachment below). That Executive Order extended wholly online instruction through Maymester semester and Summer Semester 2020. That order included plans (subject to change) to resume normal instruction at the beginning of fall semester 2020.

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Kemp issued another Executive Order (the second attachment below). That Order includes an implementation of a State-wide shelter in Place directive. **That Order goes into effect today (Friday, 4/3/2020) at 6 PM.**

The Governor's Shelter in Place Order contains an exception for Critical Infrastructure. As stated in a letter yesterday from the USG:

"...One exception includes Critical Infrastructure. The USG and constituent entities are considered Critical Infrastructure to the extent to which they are "educators

supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions, if operating under rules for social distancing” and “[w]orkers in animal diagnostic and food testing laboratories ... in institutions of higher education.”

Thus, USG institutions can continue distance learning and performing other essential functions [and] USG faculty, staff ... can conduct Necessary Travel for these purposes.

Furthermore, as USG entities are included as Critical Infrastructure for the purposes identified above, when there are necessary in-person operations, such Critical Infrastructure entities shall implement measures that mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce. These mitigation efforts include but are not limited to the 16 items identified on pages five and six of the attached Order and apply to USG entities when conducting in-person operations...”

Accordingly, EGSC will continue to offer all of its courses wholly online this semester, Maymester and Summer Semester. Also, a very small number of EGSC employees performing "essential functions" will continue to work on campus as needed when they are specifically authorized by the appropriate vice president or campus director. "Essential" does not include individuals who want to be on campus due to convenience or other nonessential reasons.

That vice president or campus director will provide each of those authorized individuals with a letter each week verifying that they are authorized to come to campus to perform essential functions. This will enable the employees to keep with them a copy of the letter when traveling to and from campus (along with their EGSC identification card and other appropriate identification, such as a driver's license). These letters may not be transferred to any other person and may be used only for travel to and from campus.

I will keep you up-to-date as we receive further guidance and as the situation changes.

Thank you for all you are doing to maintain our outstanding learning environment during these unprecedented and challenging times. You are appreciated.

Bob Boehmer
President

Downloads

- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order - April 1, 2020](#) (PDF)
- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order - April 2, 2020](#) (PDF)

Message to EGSC Students

April 03, 2020

Dear EGSC Students,

The following important information was received earlier this week from the University System of Georgia:

“May and summer semester instruction will be delivered remotely with limited exceptions. USG institutions will return to normal operations for fall semester assuming health conditions allow for it. The Governor’s Executive Orders on schools and shelter in place allow for continued access to remote education and maintaining minimal operations for students, faculty and staff.”

Yesterday afternoon, Governor Kemp issued another Executive Order. That Order includes the implementation of a State-wide shelter in place directive. That Order goes into effect today (Friday, 4/3/2020) at 6 PM. EGSC’s faculty and staff are devoted to your future and will be complying with both of these Executive Orders by continuing to offer all of your courses wholly online.

I strongly encourage you to stay healthy and safe by fully complying with the Governor’s shelter in place Order. Also, it is very important to your future to continue and successfully complete your online courses this semester; and to register immediately for any Maymester, Summer or Fall courses you need to complete your degree.

Please be safe and healthy, and I’ll be in touch with you soon.

Bob Boehmer

President

Message to EGSC Students

April 06, 2020

Dear EGSC Students,

The one thing at the top of my mind this week is your personal health and safety. Please take this COVID-19 crisis with highest level of seriousness. Stay at home. Stay safe.

The next thing on my mind this week is your long-term success. Together, our East Georgia State Bobcat family successfully completed our first full week of wholly online classes. Now, let’s keep the momentum going. Please continue to be patient, flexible, diligent and strong and successfully complete all of your spring semester courses. As you are doing that, please don’t forget to register for your next semester. When this crisis is finally over, this will assure that you are in great position for long-term success.

There were some major developments this week concerning your personal safety and your college education. (Clicking on each heading below takes you to more detailed information about each of these)

- [Wholly Online Classes Extended Through Maymester and Summer Semester 2020](#)
- [University System of Georgia Announces Plans to Return to Normal Operations for Falls Semester 2020](#)
- [Governor Kemp Issues Shelter in Place Order](#)
- [Other Important Information](#)
- [Review of This Week's Activity](#)

Wholly Online Classes Extended Through Maymester and Summer Semester 2020

The following important information was received earlier this week from the University System of Georgia:

“May and summer semester instruction will be delivered remotely with limited exceptions, ... The Governor’s Executive Orders on schools and shelter in place allow for continued access to remote education and maintaining minimal operations”

University System of Georgia Announces Plans to Return to Normal Operations for Fall Semester 2020

The University System of Georgia also made the following announcement:

*“USG institutions **will return to normal operations for fall semester** assuming health conditions allow for it.”*

Governor Kemp Issues Shelter in Place Order

- Later in the week, Governor Kemp issued another Executive Order. That Order includes the implementation of a State-wide shelter in place directive. That Order went into effect on Friday, 4/3/2020 at 6 PM.
- EGSC’s faculty and staff are devoted to your future and will be complying with the Governor’s Executive Orders by continuing to offer all of your courses wholly online.

I strongly encourage you to stay healthy and safe by fully complying with the Governor’s shelter in place Order

Other Important Information

- Thank you for adapting to the new normal (wholly online classes) with a positive approach. Please continue to be patient and flexible to adjust to this new online environment and we will get through it together and we will all be better for it.
- Some of the resources shared with you last week bear repeating:
- Message from Lori Burns, EGSC’s Director of Counseling to students: If you would like to schedule an appointment to **speak to a counselor**, please contact us via email (lrburns@ega.edu or sroyals@ega.edu). We will be monitoring our email accounts during normal operating hours, Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. For emergencies, call 911 or the Georgia Crisis and Access Line by dialing 1-800-715-4225.
- Information about **how to access your online courses**
<http://www.ega.edu/help/details/how-do-i-access-my-online-courses-or-troubleshoot-problems-using-gaview-d2l> (see <https://www.ega.edu/help>)
- For **quick access to your online courses via your cell phone**, download the GeorgiaView Brightspace Pulse app to your [iPhone](#) or [Android](#) device.

- For **quick access to your EGSC student email (CatMail) via your cell phone**, download the Microsoft Outlook App.
<http://www.ega.edu/help/details/im-a-new-student.-how-do-i-setup-email-on-my-phone>. (see <https://www.ega.edu/help>)
- [This website](#) includes an abundance of information that will answer most of your questions.

As a review, here are some links to this week's activity:

- [A Declaration of a State of Emergency Emanuel County and Municipalities, 4/1/20](#) (PDF)
- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order, 4/1/20](#) (PDF)
- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order, 4/2/20](#) (PDF)
- Update/Message from Emanuel Medical Center 3/30/20
- Apple Inc. – in partnership with the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – released an app and website that guides Americans through a series of questions about their health and exposure to determine if they should seek care for COVID-19 symptoms. The tool provides CDC recommendations on next steps including guidance on social distancing and self-isolating, how to closely monitor symptoms, recommendations on testing, and when to contact a medical provider.
[CDC Statement on COVID-19 Apple App](#)
- Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative
<https://broadband.georgia.gov/georgia-internet-access-covid-19-update>
- From the Library - Hotspot Map for Free Wi-Fi Access
<https://georgialibraries.org/library-everywhere/> (a direct link to the map is here: [Library Wi-Fi in Georgia](#)). **Scroll down the page just a bit and you'll see it.**
- Cyber-criminals are hard at work. Please be extremely careful with the emails and messages you open and respond to. The IRS or Treasury Department will not contact you asking for information. Text messages to “not wait for the government stimulus money – get it now” are scams. Be vigilant and call EGSC IT at 478-289-2066.
- Remember to complete the [Travel Registry](#) found [on the website](#)
- The Student Health Center will remain open to serve students who will continue to reside in the residence halls on Monday-Thursday from 1-5 PM. Swainsboro students not living on campus may call the clinic during those hours at 478-289-2182.
- All events scheduled with visitors on campus, including meetings, are cancelled for the rest of spring semester. No face-to-face meetings will be held. All meetings will be via telephone, Zoom or Skype or other electronic means.

- All events at the Fulford Community Learning Center and The Morgan House of East Georgia State College are cancelled. There will be no visitors to the Fulford Community Learning Center.
- The gym and fitness center, and our athletic facilities including outdoor basketball courts, playing fields and tennis courts are closed. EGSC's dining hall, bookstore, campus café, and Common Grounds Coffee Shop are closed.
- We are following the guidance of the NJCAA and the GCAA: all spring athletic games and practices are cancelled.
- Study Abroad Programs have been cancelled.
- Plans for Student Center Grand Opening are cancelled. This will be rescheduled for a date in early fall 2020.
- Please follow the links below to learn more about COVID-19 responses and offerings from the providers/resources listed (offerings subject to change):
 - [Federal Communications Commission "Keep Americans Connected Pledge"](#)
 - [Comcast COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [Charter Communications COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [AT&T COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [Verizon COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [Sprint COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [T-Mobile COVID-19 Response](#)
 - [Pineland Connect2PinelandFree Program](#)
 - [Northland Communications Response to COVID-19](#)

Another very useful website allows you to enter your zip code to determine internet options that are available in your area: www.broadbandnow.com

- **Message from Representative Butch Parrish, Georgia General Assembly**
To stay up to date on our state's response to COVID-19 and explore options for financial relief during these uncertain times check out the following:
 - <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
 - <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>
 - <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases>
 - <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>
 - <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
 - <https://dol.georgia.gov/blog/new-information-filing-unemployment-partial-claims-and-reemployment-services>

It is also important to note that state and federal taxes will not be due until July 15, 2020. Stay safe and remain cautious!

- **Message from Senator Jack Hill, Georgia General Assembly** shared these key links about Fourth District Schools feeding children:
 - FOURTH DISTRICT SCHOOL SYSTEMS FEEDING CHILDREN
 - Bulloch County Schools
 - For information on free meals, [visit here](#)
 - Candler County Schools

Food delivery site info [available here](#)

- Effingham County School District

School buses will deliver meals to designated locations; [visit here](#) for more information

- Emanuel County School System

School buses will deliver meals to designated locations; [visit here](#) for more information

- Evans County School System

[Visit here](#) for "Feeding Site Fast Facts"

- Tattnall County Schools

Feeding plan in place on Mondays and Wednesdays and will be suspended April 13-17 for spring break. More info on the [school website](#)

This week has presented us with many important decisions and developments in our ongoing response to COVID-19, and I write today to thank you for your continued support as we adapt to our ever-changing environment. Every single one of you strengthens our Bobcat team with your unwavering commitment and your genuine concern for others.

Stay in touch and check CatMail, texts and social media regularly. Stay in touch with your professors and instructors. I realize these emails are lengthy and I applaud your diligence in paying attention to each word. Stay strong and stay resilient. We remain focused on the health and safety of those in our campus community and we will emerge from this crisis with renewed commitment. With every challenge, there is opportunity.

My sincere wishes for another great week. Stay safe, EGSC Bobcat Family!

Bob Boehmer

President

Message to EGSC Faculty/Staff

April 06, 2020

Dear East Georgia State College Faculty and Staff,

The one thing at the top of my mind this week is your personal health and safety. Please take this COVID-19 crisis with highest level of seriousness. Each one of you is important to me as an individual. Please take care yourself.

Thanks so much for your extraordinary efforts to make the transition to a wholly online learning environment go so well! Everyone is adapting to the new normal with a positive approach. Please continue to be positive, patient, flexible and strong to adjust to this new online environment and we will get through it together and we will all be better for it.

There were, as you know well, several major developments this week concerning your personal safety and the college's operations. (clicking on each heading below takes you to more detailed information about each of these)

Governor Kemp Issues Shelter in Place Order
Wholly Online Classes Extended Through Maymester and Summer Semester 2020
University System of Georgia Announces Plans to Return to Normal Operations for
Fall Semester 2020
Other Important Information

Governor Kemp Issues Shelter in Place Order

Late last week, Governor Kemp issued another Executive Order. That Order includes the implementation of a State-wide shelter in place directive. That Order went into effect on Friday, 4/3/2020 at 6 PM.

I strongly encourage you to stay healthy and safe by fully complying with the Governor's shelter in place Order.

Wholly Online Classes Extended Through Maymester and Summer Semester 2020

The following important information was received earlier in the week from the University System of Georgia:

"May and summer semester instruction will be delivered remotely with limited exceptions, ..."

That same message from the USG went on to say:

"All institutions should continue to implement their current telework and flexible work strategies so that only a minimum number of staff are on campus to maintain operations and support remote instruction. The Governor's Executive Orders on schools and shelter in place allow for continued access to remote education and maintaining minimal operations for students, faculty and staff."

The Governor's Shelter in Place Order contains an exception for Critical Infrastructure. As stated in a letter yesterday from the USG:

"...One exception includes Critical Infrastructure. The USG and constituent entities are considered Critical Infrastructure to the extent to which they are "educators supporting public and private K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing other essential functions, if operating under rules for social distancing" and "workers in animal diagnostic and food testing laboratories ... in institutions of higher education."

Thus, USG institutions can continue distance learning and performing other essential functions [and] USG faculty, staff ... can conduct Necessary Travel for these purposes.

Furthermore, as USG entities are included as Critical Infrastructure for the purposes identified above, when there are necessary in-person operations, such Critical Infrastructure entities shall implement measures that mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce. These mitigation efforts include but are not limited to the 16 items identified on pages five and six of the

attached Order and apply to USG entities when conducting in-person operations..."

Accordingly, while EGSC continues to offer all of its courses wholly online this semester, Maymester and Summer Semester, **a very small number of EGSC employees performing "essential functions" will continue to work on campus as needed when they are specifically authorized by the appropriate vice president or campus director. "Essential" does not include individuals who want to be on campus due to convenience or other nonessential reasons.**

That vice president or campus director will provide each of those authorized individuals with a letter each week verifying that they are authorized to come to campus to perform essential functions. This will enable the employees to keep with them a copy of the letter when traveling to and from campus (along with their EGSC identification card and other appropriate identification, such as a driver's license). These letters may not be transferred to any other person and may be used only for travel to and from campus.

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University System of Georgia also made the following announcement:

*"USG institutions **will return to normal operations for fall semester** assuming health conditions allow for it."*

Other Important Information

Thank you for adapting to the new normal (wholly online classes) with a positive approach. Please continue to be patient and flexible to adjust to this new online environment and we will get through it together and we will all be better for it.

As a review, here is a summary of this week's activity:

- [A Declaration of a State of Emergency Emanuel County and Municipalities, 4/1/20](#) (PDF)
- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order, 4/1/20](#) (PDF)
- [Governor Kemp's Executive Order, 4/2/20](#) (PDF)
- Update/Message from Emanuel Medical Center 3/30/20
- **To forward your calls from your office cell phone to another number (cell, landline) etc.**

Press *74 on your office phone then 9 for an outside line followed by the number you are forwarding to. If you are forwarding to a 10-digit phone number, after the 9, you must enter 1, then the 10-digit phone number. You will hear 3 short beeps to confirm.

To cancel call forwarding: Press *73 on your office phone. You will hear 3 short beeps to confirm.

Instructions for accessing EGSC voice mail system from off-campus telephone:

EGSC-Swainsboro campus:

1. Dial 478-289-2189.
2. You will hear the voice mail system message: "Welcome to Audix. For help at any time press star (*).
3. Please enter extension and pound (#) sign. Enter your 5-digit EGSC office phone extension (e.g., 62004), then press #
4. You will then hear: "Enter password and pound (#) sign."
5. Enter your voicemail password, then press #
6. Follow the voice mail system message prompts to listen to new voice mail messages you have received

EGSC-Statesboro campus:

1. Dial 912-623-2498.
2. You will hear the voice mail system message: "Welcome to Audix. For help at any time press star (*). Please enter extension and pound (#) sign."
3. Enter your 5-digit EGSC office phone extension (e.g., 62004), then press #
4. You will then hear: "Enter password and pound (#) sign."
5. Enter your voicemail password, then press #
6. Follow the voice mail system message prompts to listen to new voice mail messages you have.

EGSC-Augusta is on a different telephone system and cannot be accessed in this manner.

- o Reminder from Ashley Woods about Fraud Attempts
"I am recirculating this e-mail because a second USG institution received the phishing scam below requesting urgent purchase of gift cards. Unfortunately, the scam was successful at the 2nd institution.
Remember that with the first institution, the employee engaged with the fraudster, but did eventually realize it was a scam; the second institution employee purchased \$1,800 in gift cards and was asked to purchase an additional \$3,000 before reaching out to the supervisor. In both cases, the employees receiving the phishing e-mails were in fiscal/finance positions. **We must stay alert and act in a vigilant manner to prevent fraud across our campus.**

While we are all working through COVID-19 issues, threat actors and fraudsters are busy too. Don't let your guard down during this time! Here are two unsuccessful phishing attempts that recently occurred within the USG:

1. The USO Cybersecurity team was made aware of an unsuccessful phishing operation at a USG institution. An e-mail purporting to be from Sterling Infosystems requested payment for past due invoices. Sterling Infosystems is a legitimate vendor that was under system-wide contract for background checks through 6/30/2019. Be on the lookout for fraudsters impersonating legit companies. If you have any questions, or uncertainty about an email, please send it to me to verify before responding or providing any information.

***Note: The invoice was sent to Gordon State, but another USG institution received the phishing e-mail and invoices. Charges on the invoices were dated

after 6/30/19, which is beyond the contract expiration. The alert employee recognized this and made their IT department aware.

2. Employees at a USG institution received phishing e-mails requesting an urgent purchase of gift cards. The e-mail example attached purported to be from the institution's Comptroller, but the e-mail behind the name was a Gmail account. Be sure to look for the banner which indicates the email originated from a third-party email provider: **ALERT: This email originated from an external source. Please use proper judgment before opening attachments, clicking links, replying, or providing information.**

***Note that in the second scenario the employee engaged with the fraudster even though the e-mail contained the warning that it came from outside of the university. The employee eventually did come to the conclusion that the e-mail was a scam. All phishing e-mails were retracted by the institution's IT department."

- **Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative**
<https://broadband.georgia.gov/georgia-internet-access-covid-19-update>
- **From the Library - Hotspot Map for Free Wi-Fi Access**
"Julie Walker, our state librarian, just forwarded along a link to a map of all library Wi-Fi available in parking lots around the state. The map is available here: <https://georgialibraries.org/library-everywhere/> (a direct link to the map is here: [Library Wi-Fi in Georgia](#)). Scroll down the page just a bit and you'll see it. Please feel free to share with your students and campus colleagues.
- **Last week's letter to faculty and staff may be found on the COVID 19 website. It contains a wealth of information on D2L, Brightspace, Online teaching and learning. Please continue to review.**
- EGSC Has a COVID-19 Website
This [website](#) includes an abundance of information that will answer many of your questions.
 - Remember to complete the [Travel Registry](#) found [on the website](#).
 - The Student Health Center will remain open to serve students who will continue to reside in the residence halls on Monday-Thursday from 1-5 PM. Swainsboro students not living on campus may call the clinic during those hours at 478-289-2182.
 - All events scheduled with visitors on campus, including meetings, are cancelled for the rest of spring semester. No face-to-face meetings will be held. All meetings will be via telephone, Zoom or Skype or other electronic means.
 - All events at the Fulford Community Learning Center and The Morgan House of East Georgia State College are cancelled. There will be no visitors to the Fulford Community Learning Center.
 - The gym and fitness center, and our athletic facilities including outdoor basketball courts, playing fields and tennis courts are closed. EGSC's dining hall, bookstore, campus café, and Common Grounds Coffee Shop are closed.
 - EGSC is following the guidance of the NJCAA and the GCAA. All spring

athletic games and practices are cancelled.

- Study Abroad Programs have been cancelled.
- Plans for Student Center Grand Opening are cancelled. This will be rescheduled for a date in early fall 2020.
- The staff evaluation due date to HR has been extended until May 1, 2020.
- Important information regarding internet service providers. Please follow the links below to learn more about COVID-19 responses and offerings from the providers/resources listed (offerings subject to change):

[Federal Communications Commission "Keep Americans Connected Pledge"](#)

[Comcast COVID-19 Response](#)

[Charter Communications COVID-19 Response](#)

[AT&T COVID-19 Response](#)

[Verizon COVID-19 Response](#)

[Sprint COVID-19 Response](#)

[T-Mobile COVID-19 Response](#)

[Pineland Connect2PinelandFree Program](#)

[Northland Communications COVID-19 Response](#)

Another very useful website to add to the list

is www.broadbandnow.com which allows you to enter your zip code to determine internet options that are available in the respective area.

- **Message from Representative Butch Parrish, Georgia General Assembly**

To stay up to date on our state's response to COVID-19 and explore options for financial relief during these uncertain times check out the following:

- <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>
- <https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases>
- <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>
- <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>
- <https://dol.georgia.gov/blog/new-information-filing-unemployment-partial-claims-and-reemployment-services>

It is also important to note that state and federal taxes will not be due until July 15, 2020. Stay safe and remain cautious!

- **Message from Senator Jack Hill, Georgia General Assembly**, shared these key links about Fourth District Schools feeding children:

FOURTH DISTRICT SCHOOL SYSTEMS FEEDING CHILDREN

- Bulloch County Schools
For information on free meals, [visit here](#)
- Candler County Schools
Food delivery site info [available here](#)
- Effingham County School District
School buses will deliver meals to designated locations; [visit here](#) for more information

- Emanuel County School System
School buses will deliver meals to designated locations; [visit here](#) for more information
- Evans County School System
[Visit here](#) for "Feeding Site Fast Facts"
- Tattnall County Schools
Feeding plan in place on Mondays and Wednesdays and will be suspended April 13-17 for spring break. More info on the [school website](#)

This week presented us with many important decisions and developments in our ongoing response to COVID-19. Again, I **thank you for your continued support as we adapt to our ever-changing environment.** Every single one of you strengthens our Bobcat team with your unwavering commitment and your genuine concern for others.

As we end another week, I want to share with you how proud I am of each one of you. Your resilience and commitment are exemplary. Thank you for everything you are doing to make this experience valuable to our students. The days are challenging and uncertain, yet you all are facing it with calm determination.

Stay safe, stay well and stay strong.

Bob Boehmer

President

Update to Faculty and Staff

April 13, 2020

[Click here for a video message from President Boehmer](#)

Dear Faculty and Staff,

I would like to begin my weekly communication with a simple and heartfelt thank you. Thank you for keeping the critical infrastructure on our campuses up and running for those who need shelter, food and technology. Thank you for taking the extraordinary challenge of moving instruction wholly online in such an efficient manner. I have heard the expression this week that this crisis is like "building the plane while it is flying." We can all relate to that. You are all coming through with the resources to meet these unknown obstacles and your flexibility and common sense is prevailing. Again, simply and humbly, thank you.

On a very somber note, **we lost a dear friend of the college on Monday afternoon. Senator Jack Hill** passed away very unexpectedly at his office in Reidsville. We will deeply miss our friend and supporter and his guidance with our mission.

"Our region has lost a champion. Our college has lost a powerful advocate. I have lost a friend. He was a rock. He was a model of integrity and selflessness. He was always there. Whether it was a community celebration, a public meeting or a college event, he was always there to demonstrate his personal interest in the people he represented. Mostly, he cared deeply and worked intensely and long to help the region and people he loved. He saw the promise in every one of our students and fought to assure they had the educational opportunities they

deserve. East Georgia State College respected and loved Senator Jack Hill and will not forget the contributions of this model public servant." May you Rest in Peace, Senator.

The following message from Butch Parrish, Representative from District 158, also expresses the feeling of loss for our Senator:

"As some of you may have heard, Senator Jack Hill passed away yesterday, Monday, April 6. Jack was not only my Senator for three decades; he was a dear friend.

He had a true servant's heart. He wasn't interested in who got the credit, he was only interested in getting it done. You have only to look around his district, and indeed the entire state, to see his fingerprints on so many positive things. Jack was a great man and a good friend. He will be missed by many. My sincerest condolences go out to his family."

Weekly Information

As has been the case for the past several weeks, the Covid-19 situation and our response changes rapidly. This week,

- **Governor's Executive Order - April 8, 2020**
Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has renewed the Public Health State of Emergency to assist with the state's response to COVID-19 as of April 8, 2020. The Order extends his previous Executive Orders, which were due to expire on Monday, April 13, for a further period of 17 days. They will then expire on Thursday, April 30, 2020. To read the Executive Order in full, click [here](#).
- **Governor's Executive Order April 13 - Critical Infrastructure**
Governor Brian P Kemp has issued a new Executive Order regarding COVID-19 and the Public Health Emergency. Among other things, the Order supersedes local ordinances and implements a statewide shelter-in-place directive. The provisions of the Order became effective at 6 p.m. on April 3 and will remain in effect through the end of April 13. The full text of the Order can be found at: <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>.

The **Order's shelter-in-place directive has several exceptions, one of which is for individuals who are part of the workforce for "Critical Infrastructure" and are actively engaged in the performance of, or travel to and from, their employment.** Because East Georgia State College is considered Critical Infrastructure as defined by the Order, we can continue to engage in distance learning and other essential functions, and our faculty, staff and students are permitted to travel as necessary for those purposes. Therefore, **if you are designated an essential employee by your unit,** the Order allows you to travel as necessary to perform your job duties. While you are not required to carry documentation that you are an essential employee, **we recommend you travel with your EGSC letter and EGSC identification.** Employees should continue to follow direction from their units as to their designation as an

essential employee. **Employees who must work on campus should practice social distancing, and no groups of 10 or more should gather at any time. All meetings should be conducted electronically (e.g., Zoom) or by telephone.** When conducting essential in-person operations, the Order requires the East Georgia State College to implement certain measures to mitigate exposure and spread of COVID-19. **These sixteen measures, listed on the 5th and 6th pages of the Executive Order in the section concerning “Critical Infrastructure,”** include screening and evaluation of workers exhibiting signs of illness; directing workers who exhibit symptoms not to report to work; and other safety, sanitation and social distancing measures. **Therefore, if you are experiencing symptoms of illness, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, you should not report to work; instead, you should seek medical attention and notify your supervisor of your inability to report to work.** If you experience symptoms of illness while at work, you should immediately report to your supervisor that you need to leave work to seek medical attention. We have no higher priority than the health and safety of our faculty, staff and students. We continue to encourage all members of our community to follow guidance from medical professionals and public health authorities.

- **Fees**

- University System of Georgia announces no tuition increase for 2020-2021 academic year**

- The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) will meet Tuesday, April 14th, and will be asked to approve a recommendation of no tuition increase for the 2020-2021 academic year.

- If approved, there will be no increase for any USG student. Students will pay the same tuition rates at all 26 USG institutions for the 2020-2021 academic year as they do now for the current 2019-2020 academic year. This includes East Georgia State College in Swainsboro, Statesboro and Augusta. Specifically, for EGSC students, there will be no tuition or fee increases in the coming 2020-2021 academic year.

- In addition, the only fees charged to students in **summer** semester 2020 will be the Institutional fee and the Information Technology fee. With these fee reductions, a student on the Swainsboro campus taking four or more hours will see a reduction in their total **summer** cost of \$178. EGSC-Statesboro and EGSC-Augusta students will also see reductions this summer.

- In addition, students will benefit from the elimination of the online differential charged to undergraduate students. This is effective beginning summer semester 2020.

- **CARES Act – Stimulus Act III**

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act became law less than two weeks ago. Understanding how this new law affects higher education is important to our region, East Georgia State College and students.

- On April 9, 2020, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced the first wave

of CARES act funding. Funds will be distributed to colleges and universities to provide emergency aid to college students whose lives and educations have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak. Each college and university must now prepare its own plan describing how these funds will be used to meet emergency needs of students. The funding is available through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund authorized by the CARES Act.

East Georgia State College and its students are included in the funding announced today. The specific terms of the EGSC plan for use of these emergency funds will be announced soon in order to assure that students and their families will have the opportunity to have these funds applied to achieve their educational goals.

As a reminder, USG institutions are receiving funds split 50/50 between funds that have to be provided directly to students (“Grant Aid”) and funds the institution can use directly (“Institutional Aid”) The first round of dollars is the Grant Aid that is limited solely for use as direct grant aid to students. The DOE specifically said institutions cannot use Grant Aid to fund refunds to students. The DOE noted that Grant Aid also cannot be used to reimburse institutions for purchases made on behalf of students.

Institutions must submit a form agreeing to use the Grant Aid funds in accordance with the law.

Guidance on use of Institutional Aid (the other 50%) is forthcoming from DOE and they anticipate guidance and funding being available in approximately two weeks. The DOE officials suggested that the Institutional Aid **likely** could be used to reimburse the institution for refunds and that they would grant “flexibility” in the use of these funds; however, we won’t know exactly what this means until DOE issues their written guidance.

- **Guidance for Supervisors on Employees with signs of illness has been released and is found on [the COVID-19 website](#).** Details are:

This guidance is provided to assist you in implementing East Georgia State College’s (EGSC’s) employee policies and procedures concerning employee illness and absences during COVID-19. During this time, it is important that EGSC take appropriate precautionary measures concerning employee illness and absence to ensure the safety of all employees and students. The following reporting procedures provide an illness and absence reporting mechanism for supervisors that will enable EGSC to monitor its response to COVID-19.

1. No employee should be on campus unless there is a need identified and the employee’s presence on campus is approved by his or her immediate supervisor. If an employee is authorized to be on campus, their supervisor should notify the appropriate vice-president or campus director and that individual should notify the Chief of Police.

2. If an employee is on campus, that employee should have little to no face to face interaction with others. If face to face interaction is required, the employees should practice social distancing of at least 6 feet. All meetings must be held by conference call or electronically (Zoom, Skype, etc.).

3. If an employee calls in sick from home and reports illness or possible exposure to COVID-19, the employee must be instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR.

4. If an employee is on campus and reports feeling ill, send the employee home. The employee must be instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR.

5. If an employee reports that a co-worker who is on campus has disclosed that the co-worker is feeling ill, verify with the sick employee and send the sick employee home. The employee must be instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR.

6. If an employee reports a co-worker who is on campus has disclosed that the co-worker may have been exposed to COVID-19, verify with the exposed employee and send the employee who may have been exposed home and for quarantine and notify anyone else with whom they have had face to face contact. The employee must be instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR. Employees that had close contact with the co-worker who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should also be sent home for quarantine and instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR. Close contact is defined as an face to face interaction of less than 6 feet.

7. If an employee who is on campus reports that they may have been exposed to COVID-19, send the employee home for quarantine and notify anyone else with whom they have had face to face contact. The employee must be instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR. Employees that had close contact with the co-worker who may have been exposed to COVID-19 should also be sent home for quarantine and instructed not to report to work until receiving permission to return to work from EGSC HR.

8. The supervisor must report any of the above incidents on the EGSC COVID-19 Possible Exposures Form, notify EGSC HR, and send the form to the EGSC President. The President will maintain the EGSC COVID-19 Possible Exposures Form.

9. The EGSC President will send each report to Human Resources for follow up with each employee.

10. The Director of Human Resources will send a letter to each identified employee with information regarding leave, self-care and quarantine per CDC guidelines, free COVID-19 screening, and return to work deadline and conditions, as appropriate.

11. The employee will maintain contact with his or her immediate supervisor and EGSC HR while on leave / quarantine. If the employee is quarantined due to possible exposure to COVID-19 and the individual to whom the employee was exposed tests negative for COVID-19, upon notice to EGSC.

○ **Update from Emanuel Medical Center - 4/8/2020**

Dear Community and Business Leaders:

As of April 6, 2020, we now have a testing site at our Meadows Building, 543 West Church Street, Swainsboro, GA. This testing site requires the patient to first contact their local Primary Care Physician. All our Clinics in Emanuel County have the option of Telemedicine visit over the phone or computer which will include a screening of symptoms. If the Physician foresees the patient should be tested, an order will be written to test the patient. The patient will then be given an appointment, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will need to report to our testing site. As a reminder, our physicians are able to handle a wide array of services via telemedicine, which allows one to never leave home.

According to the CDC and DPH guidelines, the best practice is not to send a family member or employee to the Emergency Room for testing. If you suspect that you or a loved one or employee has been exposed to coronavirus, and you are showing correlating symptoms of COVID-19, please take these measures.

Unless you are experiencing a health emergency and need immediate health intervention, do not go to an emergency room. Call your primary care physician's office to discuss your symptoms and your possible exposure. Your healthcare provider will determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

Be prepared to treat the common symptoms of COVID-19, which includes fever, cough, and possible respiratory congestion. Be sure to remain hydrated, drinking plenty of liquids. Sports drinks such as Gatorade and Powerade contain electrolytes that are effective in combating dehydration.

Thank you for your continued support to our community and hospital. Emanuel Medical Center and our physician offices are committed to caring for our community. We are pleased to now be able to test all patients that meet the criteria of COVID-19 testing guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 478-289-1100 and ask for Administration.

Sincerely,

Damien Scott, CEO

- **Residence Hall Update:** 4 students are residing in Bobcat Villas for due to hardship, 9 students are temporarily storing belongings in their spring room assignment because they could not get here to pick up their items.

From this point forward, we are communicating that no student is permitted to return to Bobcat Villas to remove any belongings until they have received permission from the college to do so, and that the Bobcat Villas are closed to students (other than approved hardship stays) until further notice.

○ **Meeting Protocol - Zoom**

If you have anyone in your unit utilizing Eventbrite or other software to schedule events, please make sure they are not including Zoom meeting credentials in the event sign up form-especially if the sign-up form is publicly accessible. Participants should register for an event via the Eventbrite or other software sign-up form using an email address and phone number. The

event organizer should then verify if the registered participants are legitimate and after doing so can email the participants the Zoom meeting credentials. The event organizer should also configure their respective Zoom meeting to have participants wait in the "waiting room" until the meeting host allows participants to join the meeting.

At no time should Zoom credentials be shared over social media or embedded in an event sign up form or link announcement.

Adhering to the above recommendations will help to prevent unauthorized participants from joining a Zoom meeting.

Please contact [Mike Rountree](#) if you have questions.

- **Scheduling Meetings**

1. Whether you are having a Zoom meeting, Teleconference, Skype meeting, or Microsoft Team meeting, you will need to submit a request for this meeting in School Dude (if the meeting is not one you would have ordinarily held in your own workspace). This is the same as you would if we were all on campus & you were reserving a conference room.

2. Select your "Location" as All Campuses, Swainsboro, Statesboro, or Augusta. Then select your "Room" as Zoom meeting, Teleconference, Skype, or Microsoft Team meeting.

3. The historical data can be maintained and used to provide necessary information regarding our productivity and the effectiveness of our business continuity plan during a time of crisis.

4. If there is anyone else in your department that also creates or organizes meetings, please make sure they understand they need to also submit the SchoolDude request for the meeting as well.

- **Supervisors are reminded:**

1. Complete and update Business Continuity Plans – Justification is needed for any individual who is working on campus.

2. Survey of technical capacity of employees - update as needed

3. Provide letter from President Boehmer each week to employees who are authorized to work on campus the following week to confirm their travel to/from campus.

4. Send Chief Seckinger a list of employees each Friday who are authorized to be on campus the next week to perform essential job functions along with the dates the employee(s) will be on campus.

5. Maintain copies of weekly teleworking schedule from employees.

- **A Covid-19 Relief Fund for students has been established and is being shared with donors:**

EGSC Coronavirus Relief Fund –As you know, many of our students come from backgrounds that don't afford them all they need in the area of technology, resources and even basic necessities. We also have students that must remain on campus because they have nowhere else to go. Some are international students; some are from the foster system and some are homeless. To help these students and others as this transition takes place,

your gift of any amount would be life changing. To give online, [click here](#), or www.ega.edu/donate, or text EGSCCovid19 to 41444 or send your check to EGSC, c/o Institutional Advancement COVID19 Relief Fund, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro, GA. 30401

- **Bookstore**

There will be no in store textbook pickup through summer 2020. Orders will be mailed to the student.

- **Critical Information from Information Technology**

Due to the University System of Georgia's Cybersecurity policy requirements as well as recent cybersecurity threats, EGSC Information Technology will be enabling Duo two-factor authentication (2FA) on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, for all EGSC employee Office 365 accounts in which Duo 2FA has not yet been enabled. The Duo 2FA process for accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account will function the same as the Duo 2FA process for accessing the OneUSG Connect system.

Once Duo 2FA has been enabled on April 14, when accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account, you will enter your EGSC email credentials (username & password) as usual. You will then receive a Duo 2FA authentication prompt, which you will respond to by either using your EGSC-provided Duo key fob or the Duo mobile app on your mobile device (cell phone, tablet). When accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account thereafter, the Duo 2FA prompt will not occur immediately but will occur throughout the day as your cached username and password credentials begin to expire as well as depending on the applications you have open or what you're accessing. For new devices, you should see a Duo 2FA prompt immediately after entering your password.

Additionally, once Duo 2FA is enabled, if you access your EGSC Office 365 email via a mobile device (cell phone, tablet), please monitor the email app on your mobile device to ensure it is still receiving new emails. If you notice your device is no longer receiving new emails, you may need to remove your EGSC Office 365 email account from the device's built-in email app and install and configure the Microsoft Outlook app for use with your EGSC Office 365 email account. Below are links to instructions for configuring the Outlook app for Apple and Android devices:

- Apple: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/set-up-email-in-outlook-for-ios-mobile-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234>
- Android: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/set-up-email-in-the-outlook-for-android-app-886db551-8dfa-4fd5-b835-f8e532091872>

When Duo 2FA is enabled on Tuesday, April 14, EGSC Information Technology be monitoring system login status to help ensure a smooth transition of EGSC Office 365 accounts to Duo 2FA. If you have any questions, concerns or experience any problems using the Duo 2FA, please contact EGSC IT at cswork@ega.edu with the **Subject: Office 365 Duo** or via phone at 478-289-2004.

- **Other Critical Information**

Please continue to monitor the [COVID-19 website](#) for information and updates.

Remember to utilize all the cybersecurity tips that have been shared with you.

As we begin another week, I will say again, thank you for taking on this challenge of moving instruction wholly online. We will come out of this situation as a stronger institution, ready to face a brighter future. Stay well and stay safe. May we all continue to stay strong and stay in touch with each other.

Bob Boehmer
President

Message to EGSC Students

April 13, 2020

[Click here for a video message from President Boehmer](#)

Dear Students,

I would like to begin my weekly communication with a simple and heartfelt thank you. Thank you for accepting and meeting the extraordinary challenge of adapting to wholly online instruction. Thank you for following the “rules.” There seem to be so many of them, but you have stepped up. Again, simply and humbly, thank you.

On a very somber note, we lost a dear friend of the college on Monday afternoon. Senator Jack Hill passed away very unexpectedly at his office in Reidsville. We will deeply miss our friend and supporter and his guidance with our mission.

“Our region has lost a champion. Our college has lost a powerful advocate. I have lost a friend. He was a rock. He was a model of integrity and selflessness. He was always there. Whether it was a community celebration, a public meeting or a college event, he was always there to demonstrate his personal interest in the people he represented. Mostly, he cared deeply and worked intensely and long to help the region and people he loved. He saw the promise in every one of our students and fought to assure they had the educational opportunities they deserve. East Georgia State College respected and loved Senator Jack Hill and will not forget the contributions of this model public servant.” May you Rest in Peace, Senator.

The following message from Butch Parrish, Representative from District 158, also expresses the feeling of loss for our Senator:

“As some of you may have heard, Senator Jack Hill passed away yesterday, Monday, April 6. Jack was not only my Senator for three decades; he was a dear friend. He had a true servant's heart. He wasn't interested in who got the credit, he was

only interested in getting it done. You have only to look around his district, and indeed the entire state, to see his fingerprints on so many positive things. Jack was a great man and a good friend. He will be missed by many. My sincerest condolences go out to his family."

Weekly Information

As has been the case for the past several weeks, the Covid-19 situation and our response changes rapidly. Following is a list of the high points of what you need to know this week,

- **Resources**
 - Information about how to access your online courses
<http://www.ega.edu/help/details/how-do-i-access-my-online-courses-or-troubleshoot-problems-using-gaview-d2l> (see <https://www.ega.edu/help>)
 - For quick access to your online courses via your cell phone, download the GeorgiaView Brightspace Pulse app to your iPhone or Android device.
 - For quick access to your EGSC student email (CatMail) via your cell phone, download the Microsoft Outlook App.
<http://www.ega.edu/help/details/im-a-new-student.-how-do-i-setup-email-on-my-phone> (see <https://www.ega.edu/help>)
 - [This website](#) includes an abundance of information that will answer most of your questions.
- **Obstacles to your success**

Your long-term success is critically important to me.

Please continue to be patient, flexible diligent and strong and successfully complete all your spring semester courses. Also, remember to register for next semester. **If you are having difficulty**, please talk with your instructor, advisor, someone in the ACE or the Counseling Center. This also includes not having access to the technology you need to be successful. There are options that can help alleviate your issues.
- **Graduates and Honors Night Recipients**

Please pay close attention to your email and texts regarding the plans that are being made to make sure you are celebrated in the best possible way for these milestones.
- **Governor's Executive Order April 8, 2020**

Georgia Governor Brian Kemp has renewed the Public Health State of Emergency to assist with the state's response to COVID-19 as of April 8, 2020. The Order extends his previous Executive Orders, which were due to expire on Monday, April 13, for a further period of 17 days. They will then expire on Thursday, April 30, 2020. To read the Executive Order in full, [click here](#).
- **Fees**

University System of Georgia announces no tuition increase for 2020-2021 academic year

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Be prepared to treat the common symptoms of COVID-19, which includes fever, cough, and possible respiratory congestion. Be sure to remain hydrated, drinking plenty of liquids. Sports drinks such as Gatorade and Powerade contain electrolytes that are effective in combating dehydration.

Thank you for your continued support to our community and hospital. Emanuel Medical Center and our physician offices are committed to caring for our community. We are pleased to now be able to test all patients that meet the criteria of COVID-19 testing guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 478-289-1100 and ask for Administration.

STUDENTS – wherever you are located, make sure you know the protocol of what you should do in your county if you become ill.

- **Residence Hall Update:** 4 students are residing in Bobcat Villas for due to hardship, 9 students are temporarily storing belongings in their spring room assignment because they could not get here to pick up their items.

From this point forward, we are communicating that no student is permitted to return to Bobcat Villas to remove any belongings until they have received permission from the college to do so, and that the Bobcat Villas are closed to students (other than approved hardship stays) until further notice.

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EGSC Coronavirus Relief Fund –As you know, many of our students come from backgrounds that don't afford them all they need in the area of technology, resources and even basic necessities. To help these students as this transition takes place, your gift of any amount would be life changing. To give online, [click here](#), or www.ega.edu/donate, or text EGSCCovid19 to 41444 or send your check to EGSC, c/o Institutional Advancement COVID19 Relief Fund, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro, GA. 30401

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- **Other Critical Information**

Please continue to monitor [the COVID-19 website](#) for information and updates.

Remember to check your CatMail, texts and Social Media for information regularly.

Remember to utilize all the cybersecurity tips that have been shared with you.

As we begin another week, I will say again, thank you for taking on this challenge and for your resilience as we navigate this new method of wholly online instruction. We will come out of this situation as a stronger institution, ready to face a brighter future. Stay well and stay safe. May we all continue to stay strong and stay in touch with each other.

Sincerely,

Bob Boehmer

President

Message to the EGSC Community

April 13, 2020

[Click for a video message from President Boehmer](#)

Dear Community Members,

I would like to begin my weekly communication with a simple and heartfelt thank you. Thank you for your support of East Georgia State College, thank you for your offers to help in any way and thank you for your words of encouragement. Thank you to the City and County governments in our region, our Chambers of Commerce, our healthcare facilities, health care workers, public servants, elected officials, business owners and other individuals -- all providing steadfast leadership in this crisis.

I have heard the expression this week that this crisis is like "building the plane while it is flying." We can all relate to that. Again, simply and humbly, thank you.

On a very somber note, we lost a dear friend of the college on Monday afternoon. Senator Jack Hill passed away very unexpectedly at his office in Reidsville. We will deeply miss our friend and supporter and his guidance with our mission.

“Our region has lost a champion. Our college has lost a powerful advocate. I have lost a friend. He was a rock. He was a model of integrity and selflessness. He was always there. Whether it was a community celebration, a public meeting or a college event, he was always there to demonstrate his personal interest in the people he represented. Mostly, he cared deeply and worked intensely and long to help the region and people he loved. He saw the promise in every one of our students and fought to assure they had the educational opportunities they deserve. East Georgia State College respected and loved Senator Jack Hill and will not forget the contributions of this model public servant.” May you Rest in Peace, Senator.

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A message from USG Chancellor Steve Wrigley:

“I am deeply saddened by the passing of Senator Jack Hill, whom I first met in 1991. He quickly became a friend and supporter of Governor Zell Miller. He was instrumental in many critical education initiatives then and since. He worked especially hard to make education accessible to all Georgians. He made the Georgia Public Library Service a priority. He treasured his alma mater, Georgia Southern University, and was a passionate contributor to its many successes. Without his help, Georgia Gwinnett College would never have become the nation's first four-year public college founded in the 21st century. If I needed to talk to him, he was always available and always listened. Senator Hill simply tried to find a way to help everyone, and during his many years of service he made a huge difference in the lives of countless students, in the reputation of the University System, and in the improvement of the state of Georgia. We have lost a fine, fine fellow, and I shall miss him greatly.”

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- [Visit the COVID-19 Page](#) for information on the new testing site at EMC.

- **Residence Hall Update:** 4 students are residing in Bobcat Villas due to hardship, 9 students are temporarily storing belongings in their spring room assignment because they could not get here to pick up their items.

- **A Covid-19 Relief Fund for students has been established and is being shared with donors:**

- EGSC Coronavirus Relief Fund –As you know, many of our students come from backgrounds that don't afford them all they need in the area of technology, resources and even basic necessities. We also have students that must remain on campus because they have nowhere else to go. Some are international students; some are from the foster system and some are homeless. To help these students and others as this transition takes place, your gift of any amount would be life changing. To give online, [click here](#), or www.ega.edu/donate, or text EGSCCovid19 to 41444 or send your check to EGSC, c/o Institutional Advancement COVID19 Relief Fund, 131 College Circle, Swainsboro, GA. 30401

As we begin another week, I will say again, thank you for your support and loyalty to EGSC. Please [monitor our website](#) for all updates. We will come out of this situation as a stronger institution, ready to face a brighter future. Stay well and stay safe. May we all continue to stay strong and stay in touch with each other.

Sincerely,
Bob Boehmer
President
East Georgia State College

Message to EGSC Faculty/Staff

April 20, 2020

Faculty and Staff,

[If you missed last week's video, click here.](#)

We are all, I suspect, asking ourselves the same questions as we shelter in place. When this finally ends, will our personal lives ever return to the way they were? Will our beloved East Georgia State College ever return to "normal?" I think we all know the answers. Of course, not.

Some of the elements of our COVID-19 personal lives will, mercifully, go away and some parts of our lives will return to "normal." May I never again experience a spring without a Final Four? May I never again experience Easter in front of a computer? May I never again be banned from walking and running on the beach?

Yet, some elements of our personal lives have been changed forever. Some changes are tragic and negative. Lives have been lost. Financial security has been shaken or, in some cases, shattered. Some changes, however, have been unexpected and positive. We all seem to appreciate one another more and treat each other better.

This same dichotomy is certainly true for colleges and universities across the entire United States. East Georgia State College is certainly no exception.

Some of the COVID-19 changes at East Georgia State College will go away. Campus will, again, become a vibrant place filled with students, faculty, staff and community members. The simple joy of being able to walk down the hall, sit in the office a colleague and have a conversation will return. I will again be able to look out of my window and see students and faculty members playing music or drawing or discussing a great book outside.

Yet, some changes such as the financial stress created by the coronavirus will take years to remedy. On the other hand, a bright aspect of the horrific worldwide pandemic is that it has forced all of us to learn new skills. It has required us to adapt rapidly.

Take one example at East Georgia State College. Six months ago, if you had asked me how long it would take to convert 100% of our classes to a wholly on-line format, I would have told you that a timeline of one year would be extremely aggressive. When the University System of Georgia recently directed us to get it done in two weeks to keep our campus and community safe, our faculty and staff did it in two weeks. And they did it well.

So, after the COVID-19 crisis abates, will we ever return to offering the same

percentage of face-to-face classes as we offered prior to the crisis? Certainly not. Students will return to our residence halls. Students will resume their daily commute to our beautiful campuses. However, a larger percentage of our students will want and need a wholly online college education.

Consider the adult learner who wants to prepare for the future while continuing to work full-time and support their family. Consider the employer who wants its talented staff to take classes at their place of work in order to enable its staff to adapt to the future while continuing to get the work done each day. The new skills we have learned during this challenging period, will enable us to serve those students and those employers much more effectively.

I suspect many of you are experiencing a similar pattern in your personal lives. Just a few months ago, I would have scoffed if you had suggested to me that I should order my groceries online and then have them brought to my car at the grocery store. I Face Timed with my grandchildren almost every day. I would have stared at you with skepticism, however, had you suggested that we get together for a cup of coffee via Zoom. I am yearning to be able to shop inside a store and to have coffee with friends face to face. However, I have found the new shopping methods and online coffee breaks to be truly enjoyable. I am not going to throw out the old stuff. But I am not going to discard my new skills either.

All of this is to say that I am deeply saddened by the damage and tragedy which COVID-19 has brought our treasured community and college. Yet, I am positive about the future of the community and the college. The COVID-19 crisis is presenting enormous financial challenges for the college. It is presenting the college huge enrollment challenges. However, it has also taught us that we can adapt to change rapidly. It has caused us to think about how talented our colleagues, students and community members are and how we treasure our time with each of them. So, it will never be the same after the crisis ends. Yet, we will recover and move forward because we have been reminded that we are strong and adaptable as a community. Certainly, none of us will ever take our colleagues, or our amazing students or our wonderful and supportive local community for granted.

So, let's turn now to the events of last week. This week at EGSC, we have accomplished a great deal. As a recap of the activities, note the following:

- We have received guidance from USG regarding the CARES Act and stimulus funding for students. Our plan for distributing those funds will be forthcoming soon.
- Honors Night was held "virtually" on Thursday evening April 16. You may view our virtual honors night celebration at www.ega.edu/2020-honors-night, on our YouTube Channel, or on Facebook. The event was well "attended" with several holding virtual "Watch Parties" and posting comments. Congratulations to our amazing students for all your hard work.
- EGSC Augusta held a virtual workshop for counselors and schools on April 17. Attendees learned about our admissions procedures, financial aid, housing and dual enrollment along with many of the other facts about EGSC.

- Dr. Sharman, our vice-president for academic and student affairs, is leading a combined group from enrollment services and marketing to develop a dynamic plan to increase enrollment in the summer and fall.
 - The Correll Scholars application deadline was April 15. We are in the process of evaluating essays and applications to choose applicants to be interviewed through Zoom technology.
 - The “virtual” 10th year anniversary celebration of the Sudie A. Fulford Learning Center, a gift to the college from Pete and Ada Lee Correll in honor of Ada Lee’s mother (a long time Emanuel County educator) is scheduled for April 30. More information will be sent to each of you this week.
 - Our virtual graduation celebration plans are also coming together. Stay tuned for updates.
 - The EGSC Foundation Board of Trustees participated in a Zoom meeting question and answer session with me on April 14.
 - Fee and housing refunds were posted to student accounts this week. Postings were in accordance with the method the student has chosen for their Bank Mobile deposits.
 - Messages from IT –
 - The University System of Georgia (USG) now requires all USG employees to complete USG Cybersecurity awareness training on a biannual basis. Going forward, the USG Cybersecurity group will release the cybersecurity training courses during the Spring and Fall semesters. With that in mind, and as part of the USG’s focus on cybersecurity, all USG employees (full-time and part-time) as well as student workers are required to complete the biannual cybersecurity awareness training.
 - The Spring 2020 Cybersecurity Awareness Training course is now available in EGSC’s GeorgiaView D2L / Brightspace system and must be completed by all EGSC employees (full-time & part-time) as well as student workers by May 8, 2020.
 - To access the 2020 Cybersecurity Awareness Training course, login to the myEGSC web portal and select “GeorgiaView D2L / Brightspace” link located under the “LaunchPad” section of the web portal.
 - Once in GeorgiaView D2L / Brightspace system, locate the “2020 Cybersecurity Awareness Training” course. Instructions for completing the course are posted in the “Announcements” section of the course.
 - The estimated time to complete the course is 20 minutes. You should complete the course in one sitting as the course does not track progress and will not resume if you exit. If you exit before completing, you will need to start over.
 - If you do not see the course, click on “View All Courses” link in GeorgiaView D2L. If you have questions or issues accessing the course, contact EGSC IT department at 478-289-2066 or 478-289-2062 or via email at cswork@ega.edu
- Due to the University System of Georgia’s Cybersecurity policy requirements

as well as recent cybersecurity threats, EGSC Information Technology will be enabling Duo two-factor authentication (2FA) on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, for all EGSC employee Office 365 accounts in which Duo 2FA has not yet been enabled.

- The Duo 2FA process for accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account will function the same as the Duo 2FA process for accessing the OneUSG Connect system.

- Once Duo 2FA has been enabled on April 14, when accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account, you will enter your EGSC email credentials (username & password) as usual. You will then receive a Duo 2FA authentication prompt, which you will respond to by either using your EGSC-provided Duo keyfob or the Duo mobile app on your mobile device (cell phone, tablet).

- When accessing your EGSC Office 365 email account thereafter, the Duo 2FA prompt will not occur immediately but will occur throughout the day as your cached username and password credentials begin to expire as well as depending on the applications you have open or what you're accessing. For new devices, you should see a Duo 2FA prompt immediately after entering your password. Additionally, once Duo 2FA is enabled, if you access your EGSC Office 365 email via a mobile device (cell phone, tablet), please monitor the email app on your mobile device to ensure it is still receiving new emails. If you notice your device is no longer receiving new emails, you may need to remove your EGSC Office 365 email account from the device's built-in email app and install and configure the Microsoft Outlook app for use with your EGSC Office 365 email account. Below are links to instructions for configuring the Outlook app for Apple and Android devices:

Apple: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/set-up-email-in-outlook-for-ios-mobile-app-b2de2161-c01d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234>

Android: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/set-up-email-in-the-outlook-for-android-app-886db551-8dfa-4fd5-b835-f8e532091872>

- When Duo 2FA is enabled on Tuesday, April 14, EGSC Information Technology be monitoring system login status to help ensure a smooth transition of EGSC Office 365 accounts to Duo 2FA. If you have any questions, concerns or experience any problems using the Duo 2FA, please contact EGSC IT at cswork@ega.edu with the Subject: Office 365 Duo or via phone at 478-289-2004.

- Reminder to [check the website regularly](#) for updates from me, the USG, Governor's office and Legislature, CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, Health care providers, Chamber of commerce updates and other vital information.

Perhaps the biggest thing that has happened this week is that we are continuing to educate students, fulfill our mission and stay on course in the face of COVID-19. We are doing this with excellence because of your commitment. You have my sincere gratitude.

As the president of East Georgia State College, I have the honor of observing each day

the transformational role of East Georgia State College—a special place focused on students, committed to intellectual excellence and social responsibility, small enough to be personal and welcoming, yet large enough to provide access and opportunity. That keeps me going during these challenging times.

Over the past several weeks, we have had challenges no one could have foreseen. Yet, we continue to thrive as we adapt to our new normal. Circumstances change daily and I applaud you for your flexibility and positive attitude. You continue to make it possible for the college to carry out this transformational role in the face of COVID-19.

Be safe. Be healthy.

Bob Boehmer

President

Message to EGSC Students

April 20, 2020

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keep our campus and community safe, our faculty and staff did it in two weeks. And they did it well. You, our amazing students, adapted immediately when wholly online course began. Thank you.

So, after the COVID-19 crisis abates, will we ever return to offering the same percentage of face-to-face classes as we offered prior to the crisis? Certainly not. Students will return to our residence halls. Students will resume their daily commute to our beautiful campuses. However, a larger percentage of our students will want and need a wholly online college education.

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- Reminder to [check the website regularly](#) for updates from me, the USG, Governor’s office and Legislature, CDC, Georgia Department of Public Health, Health care providers, Chamber of commerce updates and other vital information.
- Watch your email and social media. Student Life has planned activities beginning with a “Speed Sketcher Caricatures” event on April 23. Check social media and sign up.

Perhaps the biggest thing that has happened this week is that faculty and staff are continuing to provide classes, you are completing courses and moving towards earning degrees, and the college is fulfilling its mission and staying on course in the face of COVID-19. We are doing this with excellence because of your commitment. You have my sincere gratitude.

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Message to the EGSC Community

April 20, 2020

Dear Community Members,

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applaud you for your flexibility and positive attitude. You continue to make it possible for the college to carry out this transformational role in the face of COVID-19.

Be safe. Be healthy.

Bob Boehmer

President

Message to the EGSC Community

April 28, 2020

Dear East Georgia State College Community:

This week, I have been thinking a lot about events during my lifetime which have shaken me to the core. I have thought about sitting in my grade school classroom in Seattle, Washington, listening to AM radio with my teacher and classmates and hearing about the Cuban missile crisis. All around Seattle, Washington, people were building bomb shelters in their basements. I didn't even really understand what a bomb was, but I knew it was serious and I was scared.

Then, I remember getting the news of JFK's assassination at the same grade school from our teacher. Again, I did not yet fully appreciate the implications, but I could see the obvious grief and fear in the eyes of the adults in the room. Again, I was scared.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was walking blissfully across campus at the University of Georgia on my way to teach a class. A friend shouted to me across the quad to quickly go turn on a TV. I did. A group of UGA faculty, staff and students sat in silence and watched the news in silent horror. The group was all adults, but we were scared again.

Each of these events is, of course, different from the current COVID-19 crisis in many ways. But, in each of these prior situations, we were collectively terrified, yet we were collectively resolute, and we survived. Our national response to each of these events was imperfect – but we survived together. I believe the same will be true of this crisis. We will make mistakes. We will argue and debate with one another. We will cry. Nonetheless, we will ultimately be resolute, and we are going to survive.

One day, someone will ask each of us what we did during the COVID-19 crisis. There are going to be so many inspiring stories about workers at the grocery stores, nurses and doctors, first responders and so many others who simply kept going to work every day and taking the risk so that the rest of us could survive. Thanks in advance to all these heroes. Also, thanks to all of you who are doing the right thing by sheltering in place, social distancing – simply doing the right thing so that others are safe. You, too, will be able to say that you did the right thing during a critical time. Don't ever minimize your contribution.

Plan for Re-Opening of the College in Fall 2020

Last week, the University System of Georgia directed each of its 26 institutions to develop a plan for reopening in fall 2020. EGSC is already working on this plan.

Developing this plan is going to be a challenge that is bigger than the challenge of moving to a wholly online environment. As stated in a recent article:

“Overall, colleges have responded quickly to the multifaceted coronavirus threat. Universities swiftly moved classes online, canceled spring sports, and instructed students to vacate their dorm rooms. (Some institutions refunded fees for on-campus housing or found ways to get study-abroad students home.) **Still, shutting down was the easy part. Now administrators have to figure what their institutions will do once this semester ends.**” Adam Harris, The Atlantic, April 24, 2020.

Draw a picture in your mind’s eye of East Georgia State College on a typical pre-COVID-19 day. Almost all classrooms have about 35 seats. On a typical day, many classrooms are full or almost full for a good part of the day. At the end of assigned class periods, hallways are filled with students going to their next class. As students in our residence halls on the Swainsboro campus awake each day, each unit is occupied by 4 or 5 students. They share a common kitchen and living area as they get ready for their classes. The hallways are busy as students head to class or to the common study, laundry and social areas in the residence halls. The Academic Centers for Excellence (the ACE) on all three campuses are busy places. Students sit in close proximity to tutors and one another as they learn. In Swainsboro, the JAM Student Center is a busy place. We have not even held the grand opening for the new addition to the JAM (it was scheduled shortly after the COVID-19 crisis arrived). It was designed to be filled with students playing basketball, volleyball or video games, students watching movies or planning student activities. This pre-COVID-19 picture is vivid for me. Our campuses were designed for close human interaction to maximize learning opportunities.

Now, try to imagine all of the scenarios we will need to understand to be able to deliver the quality educational experience we have always delivered but with a new paradigm. The questions to answer can seem endless.

Those questions demonstrate just a few of the many challenges the faculty and staff of East Georgia State College are facing right now as a reopening plan is developed. Each of the University System of Georgia’s 26 institutions is unique. Each has been directed to formulate a plan for reopening at the beginning of fall semester 2020. The plan must, of course, both provide an environment with promotes learning and assures health and safety.

Developing such a plan is, to say the very least, a daunting task. **However, we are fortunate to have been given that assignment. It allows us to look to the future and imagine a time when students, faculty and staff will be back on campus --- all engaged in learning and all preparing for a bright future for our students.** We will approach this task with the same positive attitude which has characterized everything we have done together during the COVID-19 crisis.

CARES Act Funding

Another major development last week was the announcement by the federal Department of Education that the second half of the CARES Act funding for higher education has been released. As you will recall from prior letters, the CARES Act (commonly known as Stimulus III) funded institutions of higher education in the United States in two installments. The first half for student emergency grants was announced earlier. The second half for institutional expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis was

announced last week. We will share more information soon about both the student emergency grants and the institutional funds.

Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order Issued April 23rd

Governor Kemp issued a new Executive Order ("EO") on the evening of April 23, 2020. It is attached. The following describes the impact of that order on EGSC operations:

"... This EO is the operative counterpart to many aspects of the Governor's press conference on Monday. The EO extends the shelter in place order from April 30 to May 13 for certain at-risk populations and provides additional exemptions.

The main takeaway for the USG is that our remote instruction activities remain "Critical Infrastructure," allowing continued participation through May 13th. In-person operations to support Critical Infrastructure must be conducted with efforts to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19, and the EO provides 17 measures to implement, to the maximum extent practicable. These 17 measures may be found on pages 10 and 11 of the EO. "

Private Funds Have Also Been Raised to Partially Address Our Student Needs

As I have written these letters each week, I have asked you to consider contributing to a COVID-19 Relief Fund for EGSC students. Thanks to your generosity and the work of EGSC's Office of Institutional Advancement, we will be making a call for applications this week for 6 scholarships of \$250 each. These grants are designed primarily to assist students who do not qualify for the CARES Act emergency grants described above because of the limitations imposed by law on those grants. These private funds will assist our students who have suffered COVID-19 losses related to their college education, but who do not qualify for the emergency grants authorized by Congress. The deadline for applying for these private emergency funds is Friday, May 1, 2020. These funds will make a big difference in the lives of 6 amazing EGSC students.

Other news of importance

- The Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center will celebrate its 10th anniversary on April 30. EGSC will host a Virtual Celebration to mark the special occasion. Everyone is asked to view EGSC's special page at <http://www.ega.edu/Fulford-Center-10th-Anniversary> and all social media accounts of EGSC starting at noon on April 30 to view photos and a video to remember and celebrate the ten years. The Virtual Celebration will kick off at noon with a photo slideshow. Each hour, a photo and memory will be shared leading up to the main celebration video at 5 p.m.
- Everyone is reminded to check the [EGSC Covid19 site](#) regularly for updates

I look forward to seeing all of you soon in person. In the meantime, please be healthy and be safe.

Thank you! You are the best.

Robert G. Boehmer
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Each of these events is, of course, different from the current COVID-19 crisis in many ways. But, in each of these prior situations, we were collectively terrified, yet we were collectively resolute, and we survived. Our national response to each of these events was imperfect – but we survived together. I believe the same will be true of this crisis. We will make mistakes. We will argue and debate with one another. We will cry. Nonetheless, we will ultimately be resolute, and we are going to survive.

One day, someone will ask each of us what we did during the COVID-19 crisis. There are going to be so many inspiring stories about workers at the grocery stores, nurses and doctors, first responders and so many others who simply kept going to work every day and taking the risk so that the rest of us could survive. Thanks in advance to all these heroes. Also, thanks to all of you who are doing the right thing by sheltering in place, social distancing, participating in more Zoom classes and meetings than you can stand – simply doing the right thing so that others are safe. You, too, will be able to say that you did the right thing during a critical time. Don't ever minimize your contribution.

Plan for Re-Opening of the College in Fall 2020

Last week, the University System of Georgia directed each of its 26 institutions to develop a detailed written plan for reopening in fall 2020. EGSC is already working on this plan.

Developing this plan is going to be a challenge that is bigger than the challenge of moving to a wholly online environment. As stated in a recent article:

“Overall, colleges have responded quickly to the multifaceted coronavirus threat. Universities swiftly moved classes online, canceled spring sports, and instructed students to vacate their dorm rooms. (Some institutions refunded fees for on-campus housing or found ways to get study-abroad students home.) **Still, shutting down was the easy part. Now administrators have to figure what their**

institutions will do once this semester ends.” Adam Harris, The Atlantic, April 24, 2020.

Draw a picture in your mind’s eye of East Georgia State College on a typical pre-COVID-19 day. Almost all classrooms have about 35 seats. On a typical day, many classrooms are full or almost full for a good part of the day. At the end of assigned class periods, hallways are filled with students going to their next class. As students in our residence halls on the Swainsboro campus awake each day, each unit is occupied by 4 or 5 students. They share a common kitchen and living area as they get ready for their classes. The hallways are busy as students head to class or to the common study, laundry and social areas in the residence halls. The Academic Centers for Excellence (the ACE) on all three campuses are busy places. Students sit in close proximity to tutors and one another as they learn. In Swainsboro, the JAM Student Center is a busy place. We have not even held the grand opening for the new addition to the JAM (it was scheduled shortly after the COVID-19 crisis arrived). It was designed to be filled with students playing basketball, volleyball or video games, students watching movies or planning student activities. This pre-COVID-19 picture is vivid for me. Our campuses were designed for close human interaction to maximize learning opportunities.

Now that this pre-COVID-19 picture is in your mind, try to draw a new picture following re-opening. In this picture, we have assured that everyone is practicing proper disinfecting and cleaning routines and social distancing. That picture is a bit harder for me to draw in my mind. How many students are in each classroom at one time? How many live in each Bobcat Villas unit? Are classes all beginning and ending at fixed times or are they staggered? Is the class day longer? Are classes now hybrid – part face to face and part hybrid? How many students are riding the bus in Statesboro at one time? How many students can safely be in the ACE in Galloway Hall in Augusta at one time? May students congregate in close quarters to play video and board games?

Those questions demonstrate just a few of the many challenges the faculty and staff of East Georgia State College are facing right now as a reopening plan is developed. Each of the University System of Georgia’s 26 institutions is unique. Each has been directed to formulate a detailed plan for reopening at the beginning of fall semester 2020. The plan must, of course, both provide an environment with promotes learning and assures health and safety.

Developing such a plan is, to say the very least, a daunting task. **However, we are fortunate to have been given that assignment. It allows us to look to the future and imagine a time when students, faculty and staff will be back on campus --- all engaged in learning and all preparing for a bright future for our students.**

CARES Act Funding

Another major development last week was the announcement by the federal Department of Education that the second half of the CARES Act funding for higher education has been released. As you will recall from prior letters, the CARES Act (commonly known as Stimulus III) funded institutions of higher education in the United States in two installments. The first half for student emergency grants was announced earlier. The second half for institutional expenses related to the COVID-19 crisis was

announced last week. We will share more information soon about both the student emergency grants and the institutional funds.

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"... This EO is the operative counterpart to many aspects of the Governor's press conference on Monday. The EO extends the shelter in place order from April 30 to May 13 for certain at-risk populations and provides additional exemptions.

The main takeaway for the USG is that our remote instruction activities remain "Critical Infrastructure," allowing continued participation through May 13th. In-person operations to support Critical Infrastructure must be conducted with efforts to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19, and the EO provides 17 measures to implement, to the maximum extent practicable. These 17 measures may be found on pages 10 and 11 of the EO. "

Private Funds Have Also Been Raised to Partially Address Our Student Needs

Thanks to the generosity of donors and the work of EGSC's Office of Institutional Advancement, we will be making a call for applications this week for 6 scholarships of \$250 each. These grants are designed primarily to assist students who do not qualify for the CARES Act emergency grants described above because of the limitations imposed by law on those grants. These private funds will assist our students who have suffered COVID-19 losses related to their college education, but who do not qualify for the emergency grants authorized by Congress. The deadline for applying for these private emergency funds is Friday, May 1, 2020. These funds will make a big difference in the lives of 6 amazing EGSC students.

Other news of importance

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I look forward to seeing all of you soon in person. In the meantime, please be healthy and be safe.

Thank you! You are the best.

Robert G. Boehmer

President

East Georgia State College

Message to EGSC Faculty/Staff

April 28, 2020

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Developing such a plan is, to say the very least, a daunting task. **However, we are fortunate to have been given that assignment. It allows us to look to the future and imagine a time when students, faculty and staff will be back on campus --- all engaged in learning and all preparing for a bright future for our students.** Let’s approach this task with the same positive attitude which has characterized everything we have done together during the COVID-19 crisis.

Now, let’s get down to the nuts and bolts of this reopening plan. Each USG institution has been directed to formulate and deliver to the USG a detailed, written plan for reopening in fall 2020. EGSC has put in place a group of 11 small subcommittees to get

this task completed in a way that meets the unique needs of EGSC and its students. These groups are already working on these plans. I am excited to be able to now focus on a positive future point in time.

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Thank you! You are the best.

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President

East Georgia State College

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The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration ended at midnight on May 11, 2023.
Information for archival use only.