

April 29, 2020

Dear New England College Community,

This week and next are the last two weeks of Spring Semester 2020, and I think we will all be glad to move on to the summer and, for many, take some time to rest and enjoy some warm weather. It's an understatement to say this semester has been tough and not like any other in our memories. As we move into the final examination period and knowing that students will be working on writing papers and finishing projects, I want to write and say again how much I appreciate your hard work and dedication. Faculty and staff, your commitment to making the virtual experience as real and as engaging as possible is nothing short of amazing. Thank you all.

The world continues to be a strange place and uncertainty abounds. States are talking about reopening and how to do this. Some colleges have already asserted that they will be opening in the fall. Some colleges are saying they will most likely have another full semester in virtual mode. Most are considering a variety of scenarios.

For our part, New England College will be open this fall. In fact, at this time, we are planning to bring students back to campus for a resumption of in-person living and learning. Even if we can begin our fall semester at the scheduled date, we know that this will be in the context of a "new normal." How we ensure the safest environment for our students and community members is currently in the planning stage and in consultation with many health experts and government officials. We know that testing will be a big part of the process, and there will be safety measures in place to keep extensive personal interaction at a minimum (no large group meetings, for instance). But, rest assured, we will be open, and we will do everything we can to resume our residential on-campus experience on schedule.

We are fortunate to be located in New Hampshire where the virus has not been as widespread or devastating as it has been in New York or Massachusetts, for instance. We are hopeful that the virus will recede here more quickly as well.

As soon as our planning is completed, we will communicate with the entire community. In the meantime, I wish everyone the best as you prepare for the final days of classes and examinations.

Your thoughts and feedback are always appreciated.

Best regards,

Michele Perkins, EdD
President