



March 23, 2020

Huston-Tillotson University Community,

Although we are in challenging and unprecedented times, Huston-Tillotson University remains committed to our priority—ensuring that students, faculty, and staff remain safe. Our unwavering commitment to this priority is why we extended Spring Break for students by an additional week to Sunday, March 29th. During this one-week extension, we highly encourage students to prepare for our shift from in-person instruction to online classes, beginning Monday, March 30th by accessing our “Student Learning at a Distance” postings located here, <https://htu.edu/offices/center-for-academic-innovation-transformation/covid19-academic-plan-preparation-for-alternative-instruction>. We will be delivering online instruction for the remainder of the spring semester.

Last week, Governor Greg Abbott issued a series of Executive Orders pertaining to the preparedness and mitigation of the coronavirus (COVID-19), here in the state of Texas. In accordance with these state guidelines on social gatherings and public contact, it is with deep regret that I must inform you that Huston-Tillotson University is postponing our 2020 Commencement Convocation, originally slated for May 9th, 2020. Graduating Seniors, I know you and your families have awaited this special day—the cumulative celebration of a myriad of academic and personal accomplishments - for quite some time. Please know that Huston-Tillotson University is committed to honoring you. Please monitor your email closely for further information and instructions from Provost Dr. Archibald Vanderpuye, Ms. Linda Jackson, and Mr. Steven Hatchett.

Lastly, for on-campus residents, Huston-Tillotson University will be issuing a room and board credit to be applied towards a student’s balance. Students, please continue to check your email for an individualized letter from our Business Office, explaining your account balance within the next 3-5 business days.

Campus Community, to be amidst a global pandemic, is disturbing and unsettling. The safety and health of our students, faculty, and staff will *remain* Huston-Tillotson University’s priority. We will get through this together.

In Union, Strength,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Colette Pierce Burnette".

Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D.
President & CEO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT