



November 29, 2020

Dear Huston-Tillotson University Community,

The past nine months have been challenging, demanding, and wearisome for us all. Yet, step-by-step, hour-by-hour, day-by-day, despite a global pandemic, we have persisted. Students have remained steadfast in their pursuit of academic excellence. Faculty have remained tirelessly committed to finding and implementing innovative ways of teaching and cultivating the minds of the genius generation. Staff have continued to deploy support services and activities specifically designed to remove barriers to student success. Students, faculty, and staff all working together, staying focused on our mission of education as the great equalizer. I appreciate you all.

Based upon prevailing science, the advice of local and national health experts on the spread of COVID-19, the current and expected surges of cases and deaths, and no vaccine expected for release to the general public until early spring — **Huston-Tillotson University will remain online for the Spring Semester of the 2020-2021 Academic Year.** The safety and health of the entire campus community remain paramount as our top priority. Please understand that the decision to be fully online was by no means an easy one. Unfortunately, the key factors leading to our decision for the fall term are still prevalent, and in some cases, even more daunting. Continuing with fully online teaching and learning is the best decision for our campus.

In this temporary time teaching and learning virtually, the University remains steadfast in providing students with timely and engaging support. We continue to encourage students to utilize the many resources available to them. Students and their families can visit our Online Support site found [here](#) for a listing of resources designed to promote student success. In addition to the virtual [Down-Jones Library](#), a few examples of student resources found at our Online Support site are:

- Automated Faculty Advising Scheduling
- One-on-one Virtual Tutoring Options
- Ram Connect: Personalized Technology Support
- Emergency Grant Funds
- Teletherapy and Disability Support
- Workshops & Training

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Additionally, Huston-Tillotson University will be providing registered students with a persistence grant to assist with the costs of obtaining an education during such a tumultuous time. Please expect to receive more information about Huston-Tillotson University's persistence grant over the next few days.

Students, moment-by-moment, you get closer to earning your degree. Stay encouraged. Stay focused. Please take advantage of every resource available to you designed to remove barriers to your success – particularly during these unprecedented times. I encourage you to take a few moments to research the services, and resources available to you – all just [one click away](#). Our immense desire is for you to finish strong.

All updates regarding the coronavirus will continue to be communicated via HT email, the <https://my.htu.edu/ics> portal, the [Coronavirus Preparedness](#) campus link, and all official University social media channels on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). If you cannot locate a resource you need or have questions, please send an email to ht_covid-19@htu.edu.

Continuing with teaching and learning virtually for the spring semester is a crucial step in keeping us healthy, stopping the spread, and defeating this virus so we can all be together soon. Please remain vigilant in protecting yourselves and your loved ones from the spread of COVID-19 — wear your mask, wash your hands, avoid crowds, and maintain a safe distance.

Huston-Tillotson University will be a much stronger university despite, or maybe even perhaps because of, this global pandemic. We are all in this together. And together, we are getting through it.

In Union, we find our Strength,

Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D.
President & CEO

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