

ESTABLISHED 1979

NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

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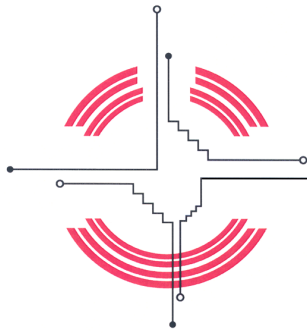
March 15, 2020

Greetings NTU Community,

The recent world events impacting us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have created a heightened level of uncertainty for our community. In response, the university leadership has been actively working with multiple agencies to develop our response plan to ensure the academic integrity for every student remains intact.

The work has included addressing multiple issues impacting every facet of our university, from the main campus to every instructional site located both on & off the Navajo Nation. We would like to share some of the critical tasks that are being addressed.

1. Mid-Terms. Working with Faculty, all mid-terms will be completed by Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Mid-term grades will be submitted no later than the close of business on Friday, March 20, 2020.
2. Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The university has submitted a formal request to the HLC to receive approval to offer temporary on-line course delivery for all courses offered. We expect to be approved in light of COVID-19.
3. NM Higher Education Department (NMHED). The university has also submitted our request the NMHED for approval of our action plan for course delivery.
4. Faculty Congress. The university leadership and the faculty have “shared governance” over the academic programs. Faculty Congress has convened an Emergency session on Tuesday to outline and agree upon the plan of action. Faculty and Administration are working together to ensure academic integrity of the university for our students.
5. Financial Aid. Reimbursements from financial aid will be disbursed on Wednesday morning. The university has been working diligently with the US DOE to fast-track disbursements following the review process. Checks will be disbursed in the Wellness Center. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If students were not able to finalize or submit their applications prior to the window being closed, as soon as the window reopens, you will need to submit in order to be determined eligible for federal funding.



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6. Health Guidance. The University leadership will continue to follow the guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in shaping our work plans. We are not operating in isolation but rather gathering guidance from multiple agencies to shape our best plan for the university.

7. Spring Break. The university will release students for Spring Break on Thursday, March 19, 2020. The classes will resume on Monday, March 30, 2020 utilizing remote learning/on-line formats. We ask students to be prepared for a new way of learning and to know there will be challenges and you are resilient, adaptable and you will complete this semester. Faculty will initiate their distance learning plans and also will have different ways to connect with each student, especially those without internet service. All university facilities, including the instructional site locations will be sanitized during the spring break. Deep cleaning will include all residential halls, classrooms, labs, cafeteria, office spaces, etc.

8. COVID-19 Updates. The NTU website will be continually updated so be sure to stay informed by checking the website as you are away from campus.

As for the critical work behind the scenes, we appreciate our employees and their tireless efforts to inform and shape the response plan.

In this time of unprecedented uncertainty, we appreciate your understanding and support of our efforts. Remember to take care of yourselves and one another.

Respectfully,

Dr. Elmer Guy,
NTU President