

Dear Stark State Students,

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work through the next steps in implementing a plan in response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19. We know this is a time of uncertainty and our priority is keeping you safe, informed and supported. Please know, we are here to help you succeed and meet your educational goals!

Yesterday, you received an email communication regarding the Governor's recommendation that all Ohio public colleges and universities take action to reduce exposure to COVID-19 by teaching classes online and via other alternatives to face-to-face classes and large group gatherings. At this time, all face-to-face courses are being transitioned to virtual classes and we ask that students not come to campus. This change is effective immediately.

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff are our No. 1 priority at this time. We also want to keep you on your educational path and help you achieve your goals.

Spring semester will resume next week, with some changes. Your will receive, via email, information and instructions about your courses for the remainder of spring semester. Please see course information below, by course type:

- Online classes will continue as planned.
- Web 2 and 3 courses will be converted to all online.
- All face-to-face classes will be converted to virtual, online or other. Your instructor will reach out to you via email between Friday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 18. Please don't panic if you haven't heard from your instructor by Friday. All face-to-face students will hear from their instructor by Wednesday, March 18 via email. You will not miss out on anything if you don't get information this week; your instructors will make sure you do not have a gap in your instruction, and you will still receive the high-quality education you deserve. Please pay close attention to your email regularly.
- Students in the following programs will receive separate and specific communication from program chairs regarding next steps:
 - o Dental
 - Dietary
 - o fire science
 - human services
 - justice studies

- massage therapy
- o medical lab
- medical technology
- nursing
- occupational therapy assisting
- o physical therapy assisting
- o respiratory care
- surgical technology

This is a very challenging time for all of us, but you are not in this alone! If you have never taken an online course and you have questions and concerns, please reach out to your instructor or dean, Gateway Student Services or the Help Desk. We are here to support you and help you through this transitional time.

Gateway Student Services

Main campus – 330-494-6170 ext. 4301, <u>studentservices@starkstate.edu</u> SSC Akron – 330-494-6170 ext. 4670, <u>akron@starkstate.edu</u>

Help Desk

330-494-6170 ext. 4357, helpdesk@starkstate.edu, helpdesk.starkstate.edu

We know the week of March 16 is going to be a big transition. If you have questions or concerns along the way, please look for further communication and resources via the College website (<u>starkstate.edu/coronavirus</u>); check your email and social media often, or call 330-494-6170.

We appreciate your patience and please know that we are working to ensure our Stark State community is healthy and safe, while also keeping you on track toward graduation and your career goals.

Sincerely, Dr. Para M. Jones President Stark State College