



“Our Finest Hour”
March 19, 2020

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," and perhaps cramming into a storm shelter sometime today. Our Greene County director of health, Clay Goddard, advises we take shelter if need be later today should storm warnings be sounded. While the novel coronavirus is obviously a serious threat, let's watch the weather today and be safe from the storm should one materialize.

Please read the University's communique carefully when it comes out today. Was on Zoom for six hours yesterday discussing optimal ways to support our faculty, staff, and students over the coming days, weeks, and months. Again, the goal is to flatten the curve, so we can discard social distancing sooner rather than later. Would be terrific to see everyone back on campus this August.

In the meantime, we will reach out to our students and reassure them their classes will resume on March 30th in some type on virtual format. They will be able to complete course work, obtain whatever licenses or certifications they need for their future careers, and become a "Bear in Their building."

This morning, via Zoom I will join the commissioner of education, deputy commissioner, three legislators, and the COPHE executive secretary to review past, present, and future directions for professional education programs in our State. While we have spent much time of late to resolve the clinical and field placement issues associated with school closings, more careful analyses of systems will be conducted to ensure decisions and accountability mechanisms are most efficient and effective.

Attached are two memos from DESE documenting practicum experience, internship, and student teaching decisions negotiated earlier this week. Other issues will most likely be encountered by and by, so today's meeting of the minds will be critical.

Keep calm and take shelter (if needed) from the storm,

David