

**Subject:** Thanks to our students

**Date:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 12:24:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Campus Alerts

**Priority:** High

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**From:** Tim Hynes <ThomasHynes@clayton.edu>

**Date:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 4:52 PM

**To:** Tim Hynes <ThomasHynes@clayton.edu>

**Subject:** Thanks to our students

We need your help in continuing to look out for yourselves and for fellow university citizens. It is sometimes easy to forget that we take these precautions because the virus is in charge—and likely will continue to stay in charge until vaccines and effective anti-viral drugs for COVID-19 are developed. And with all of that comes an external environment that remains decidedly different. We exist in a time in which the quest for social justice must continue. Jacob Blake has been added to a list of names including, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, who were recent targets of killing and violence. And the COVID-19 pandemic has claimed more than 180,000 deaths nationally as of today. We also await stabilization in a wildly fluctuating economy. As I have said, none of this is normal, and all of this makes the present a daily challenge.

But even under these circumstances, you have been amazing. Almost all of you are devotedly wearing masks, maintaining social distance, washing and sanitizing hands, and often the surfaces around you. Nearly all of you are attending classes, virtually and otherwise, and have adapted to the new ways we live and learn in a university setting. You have been amazing during this first 25% of the semester.

Again, this is not easy—but hard does not mean impossible. Continue to reach out to us and each other. Attend classes, physically and virtually. Reach out to your faculty members if you are having academic challenges in this new environment. Reach out if you just wish to learn more. Reach out to your advisor. Reach out to university counseling. It is a matter of strength to reach out, and find ways to support your own strengths and challenges as a university citizen in these times.

Once again, thank you! A great finish is needed, but a great finish comes from an amazing start. Stay well, stay safe, continue to study hard, and succeed—and, again, wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep social distance.

Tim Hynes

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