Dear Students:

I write once again with an update on our commitment to provide you with the highest quality of instruction, service, and support as a Norfolk State University (NSU). This year has been nothing short of unprecedented. Yet, in the midst of many challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and countless acts of violence and brutality perpetrated on men and women of color, we are resilient as a community.

As such, I want to share my anticipation for your return to the campus or the opportunity to engage with you virtually. We will continue with our plan to have those of you who will be on campus return in the coming weeks. Classes begin virtually tomorrow, Wednesday August 26. This means that all classes from August 26 to September 7 will be remote or online. Beginning September 8, classes will continue in the original formats: in-person, hybrid, remote, or online.

As has been demonstrated, universities and colleges have worked diligently to contain the virus and limit its transmission among campus populations. This task requires a great deal of community support. Nationally, we are seeing how the inappropriate actions of a few can have a critical and detrimental impact on others. However, I am confident that we will all work to promote a Culture of Care here at NSU. We must all work together to maintain a campus that is safe and healthy for students, staff, and faculty. In this environment, we are our “community members’ keepers.” To maintain a safe campus, the following MUST OCCUR:

- **Wear masks** and/or face coverings
- Maintain strict adherence to **social distancing** guidelines implemented by NSU and in accordance with any state and federal directives
- **Do not host and avoid attending social gatherings with more than ten people**
- **Comply with all University policies** and rules, including the Student Code of Conduct
- **Undergo COVID-19 Testing:** All students that desire to live on campus and attend classes on campus must take a COVID-19 test. Testing has been arranged through multiple entities including Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters (CHKD), ThermoFisher (Howard University Partnership), and Bode Labs (Fort Norfolk Medical Associates Partnership).
- Use preventative health devices such as **hand sanitizing stations**, adhere to posted **social distancing guidelines, including markers** that are placed on floors, walls, and on other parts of the campus
- Stay abreast of **messages provided by the University** to you via email, the University website, social media, emergency notification system, and via text

For our students residing off campus or staying in their homes, we encourage you to take all necessary precautions to protect your health and safety during this time. There will be a number of opportunities for you to engage with us in virtual and online formats. We ask that you stay connected to your NSU community via our website, social media, and through messages that will be sent to you via email or text. You will continue to have access to services such as Counseling, Career Services, Financial Aid, and the Dean of Students.
Please know that behavior that poses any risk to the community, will be addressed promptly. **Students who do not adhere to the directives and guidelines** that are in place **may be placed on interim suspension immediately** and subject to the outcome of a student conduct process or hearing. Staff and faculty will also be subject to disciplinary or corrective action. We cannot afford to take any chances.

I anticipate that working together, we will be able to get through this semester with minimal challenges. The reality is COVID-19 is a fluid concern. Should COVID-19 pose any increased risk to the health and safety of the University community, we are poised to shift modalities.

I look forward to interacting with you in person or virtually. We will succeed as a university community by upholding our standard of excellence needed at all times.

BEHOLD!

Sincerely,

Javaune M. Adams-Gaston, Ph.D.
President