Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. This year has been unprecedented. Across the nation, universities, colleges, school districts, and other entities have made critical and difficult decisions regarding their modes of operation that are in the best interests of their communities and the individuals they serve. Such is the case here at NSU. We have worked together to implement measures and modes for the health and safety of the entire campus community.

I want to extend my deepest and sincerest gratitude for the efforts of the NSU community beginning in March when COVID-19 became a national concern. We have implemented a range of innovative and creative approaches to provide and deliver the highest quality of instruction to your students. In keeping the campus safe, we have forged ahead in our daily work and operations, both remotely and on campus. I appreciate the University community’s commitment to providing high quality instruction and service to NSU students.

Virtual course instruction begins tomorrow, August 26 through September 7. We have initiated a phased return to campus. If your student chooses not to return to campus, remote and online courses are available, and we will continue to engage them virtually. I recognize and appreciate your flexibility and support throughout this process. The decision of sending your student to NSU is not taken lightly. We have implemented a COVID-19 Taskforce and are adhering to guidance and directives issued by state and local officials, including the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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. I am confident that we will all work to promote a Culture of Care here at NSU. We must 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**
- **Comply with all University policies** and rules
- **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), Thermo-Fisher (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

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

I look forward to interacting with you virtually throughout the semester. Together we will succeed as a university community and commit to being a model of success.

Sincerely,

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