

Hello All,

I can't believe that it has been 19 years since 9-11, though the walking, talking nineteen-year-old I live with should be a good reminder. Kai was in a baby seat throughout the day as Brian and I watched the news unfold after the attacks on 9-11. He was three months old. Our responses to that day were filtered through sadness about how his world was changing before our eyes. Our experiences today are parallel in many ways, as I consider our months-long consumption of the latest news on COVID-19 and consider the world-shaping impacts for the young people we parent and the students whom we have dedicated our careers to serving. I'm sure that all of you reading this share with me the mixture of trepidation about how deeply so many of our systems are being tested as we navigate this coronavirus, as well as faith in the resilience of the institutions that will see us through.

Back to School!

We have reached the end of the first week of in-person learning! It is so exciting to see students on Scholar's Walk and know that they are sitting down across campus in rooms redesigned and outfitted to serve their learning needs. The lift that got us here is impossible to quantify, but I do want to recognize once again the efforts of so many across campus. From stocking sanitizer to re-inventing your entire pedagogical toolkit, you've taken some incredible steps to get us here. I know our students are grateful, and I am humbled by the deep reserves you have all had to tap. For us to keep the students here and in our classrooms, we must remain vigilant. Faculty are on the front lines every day and play a very important role in modeling our expectations and ensuring consistent application of our masking and safety expectations. Thank you in advance for the reminders you will have to give - and for all the foggy glasses you will have to endure - to get through the next few months.

Professional development opportunity:

I want to share an opportunity that recently crossed by inbox. Another free summit from Arizona State, with some very interesting panels and keynotes, ranging from former Secretary of State Colin Powell to Bill Nye the Science Guy, and from Malcolm Gladwell to Gloria Steinem, it's an interesting line-up on the subject of [The Dawn of the Age of Digital Learning](#). The tagline is "Don't watch the movement. Be the movement." There are some very interesting panels on the challenges facing higher education today. One of them mentions a challenge that I frequently hear faculty lament: how do we prepare to teach students whose K-12 experiences are profoundly shaped by the increase of economic disadvantage? Other panels are on career-connected learning, the social and emotional impacts of remote learning, and the future of learning through play. And did I mention it's free? I hope you have a moment to check it out.

Provost office hour:

I will have my [provost office hour](#) today from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. I will be on Teams again next Friday, September 18, then I will take a two-week hiatus as I plan to take some furlough days during the end of the month. I will be available to shift back into remote work status as needed, but I wanted you to be aware that I will be spending some time with family. If you have any questions, please reach out to Meg Webber between September 21 and October 2.

Have a great weekend.

Adrienne