Dear Campus Community,

As we continue operating the University under extraordinary circumstances, it is important that each employee knows how grateful the leadership of UM-Flint is for the outstanding work that is taking place across every unit. Carrying on everyday responsibilities in the face of uncertainty and upheaval is admirable, and creates stability when our students, colleagues, and community need it most. Your valiant efforts exemplify leaders and best.

Although the University is quiet, and business is not as it usually is, there are still a number of employees who are reporting to campus every day to keep our institution running efficiently. The Department of Public Safety is patrolling campus and also taking students to the grocery store as needed. Staff in Housing and Residential Life helped students move out, while supporting students who are staying in the Riverfront Residence Hall. Our dedicated housekeeping staff has worked extra hard these last few weeks, cleaning and disinfecting all areas of the campus. Much of the Facilities team is still on site, managing essential projects and dealing with maintenance issues. We applaud their efforts, and their willingness to be on the job on campus, doing everything they can to help the University operate smoothly in the midst of the crisis.

Staff working remotely are continuing the highest levels of service and stewardship for the University. The Office of Extended Learning has developed a solid network of resources for faculty, helping them to create virtual learning environments for students. Faculty members continue to deliver the excellent education that our students and their families have come to expect from us. University Advancement is reaching out to alumni and friends, sharing information about the campus and our collective efforts to move forward. The Office of the Registrar is implementing the new grading process for the semester, and the Admissions team is reaching out to potential undergraduate and graduate students to offer assistance. The International Center, Center for Gender and Sexuality, and Counseling and Psychological Services are in touch with students, helping to support them during this difficult time.

These are only some of the impressive accomplishments of UM-Flint employees. Stories of help and hope of colleagues coming together are a shining light in this dark time, and we are filled with pride at the level of care and thoughtfulness that each of you brings to your tasks. Academic and non-academic units on campus are working nonstop. Every department is embracing this moment and making the best of it through problem-solving, innovation, and teamwork.

It is important to realize that every employee at UM-Flint has family and friends they are caring for during this pandemic. Managing a household, whether big or small, has taken on new stress and complexity. Having a job and a personal life is a difficult balance in the best of times. In a national emergency situation, it is something else entirely. Caring for elderly relatives is essential. Explaining to young children why they can't play with their friends is heartbreaking. Watching the daily rollercoaster of the stock market and worrying about savings and retirement can take a toll. Work/life balance is very hard to achieve now as the lines between workplace and home become blurred.

We encourage everyone to make physical and mental health a priority during this trying time. University Human Resources has several resources for all employees, including financial consultation, mental health services, MHealthy activities, work/life balance tips and much more. Your well-being matters.

Now, more than ever, we must support one another. Let kindness be our contagion at UM-Flint. Treating colleagues with understanding and expressing appreciation is always the right thing to do, but as we face this serious situation together, let's do all we can to set aside differences and disagreements to help each other. Everyone is doing their very best right now to weather these troubled times. The level of collaboration is extraordinarily high, and is worth celebrating. Know that a simple act of goodwill toward co-workers is one of the greatest gifts you can give today.

When the next chapter in the history of this campus is written, this current group of faculty and staff will be known...
as the people who rose to the occasion with grace and humanity to deliver on the promise of an outstanding Michigan education. That is heroic.

Every employee on this campus deserves our immense gratitude and admiration for selfless acts of service. Thank you for all that you have done and all that you continue to do. We are with you.

In good health,

The University of Michigan-Flint Cabinet

Deba Dutta
Chancellor

Keith Moreland
Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Michael Hague
Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance

Kristi Hottenstein
Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Christopher Giordano
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

B.J. Hull
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Tess Barker
Executive Director of Special Projects and
Interim Director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality