

A message from Dr. Janet Morrison



Can't wait to start this journey

January 14, 2021

Colleagues,

What I love most about working on a post-secondary campus is having direct access to students who are excited and energized by what they're learning and creating. This week we hosted a virtual orientation for new students and I'm thrilled to report that the level of engagement we typically cultivate in-person was effectively replicated across digital platforms.

Specifically, new student orientation included more than 35,000 one-on-one chats, video calls or networking meetings between students and/or employees. Our teams facilitated 65 sessions over three days providing important program information and just-in-time responses to ensure students [Transition Well](#) to Sheridan.

More than 366 people came together to help make these events a success: 130 staff, 113 faculty facilitators, associate deans and deans and 122 student staff (peer mentors, peer assisted learning tutors and virtual connectors) representing over 25 departments. I want to thank everyone for their time and commitment, which was truly impressive and made orientation possible.

One new student sent a chat message that read simply: "Can't wait to start this journey." I am genuinely inspired by their enthusiasm.

COVID-19 cases

I appreciate that levels of anxiety about transmission and infection are high and am pleased to report that we currently have zero active cases of COVID-19 on our campuses. Please be reminded that we track that information [here](#). Our success to-date in managing case levels is a testament to the personal responsibility and commitment to COVID precautions that everyone across our learning community is taking.

Please remember that only those who have been instructed to go to campus by their manager or are taking a course designated for on-campus delivery can be on-site at this time. Further, anyone coming to campus must follow security procedures, have their OneCard with a winter 2021 sticker, practice physical distancing, wash or sanitize their hands frequently and wear a mask indoors and out.

At this time, the winter term continues as planned; we do not expect any changes to our programming as a consequence of the new stay-at-home order.

Many of you will attest to the fact that I'm always excited to start a new term. It really is a privilege to work in a space focused on harnessing, cultivating, and amplifying human potential. I want to thank all of you for actively contributing to students' senses of belonging, connectedness, academic culture and resourcefulness. Research affirms that these – combined with a strong sense of purpose – are foundational to effective student transitions and, in the end, academic success.

So: bring on the winter term. We are here! Our students are excited, and we are ready to give them the experience of a lifetime.

Warmly,

Janet Morrison, PhD
President and Vice Chancellor

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