Dear ESF Community,

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we prepare the campus for the transition from residential instruction to virtual instruction. Today’s updates are as follow:

After a meeting with the faculty, the campus has confirmed its decision to begin virtual instruction on March 23, 2020.

During the period when instruction will be offered virtually, the Syracuse campus will remain open, including the library, research labs, and computer labs. (We expect Trailhead will not be open.) If you are a resident of Centennial Hall, and can safely return home, we encourage you to leave after your last class on March 13 and to continue online instruction from your home, returning to Centennial Hall when residential instruction resumes. However, we are aware that there may be reasons – including access to technology – why students may wish to remain in Centennial Hall now. Students may remain in Centennial Hall during Spring Break and throughout the period of time the College offers instruction virtually. Centennial Hall residents who choose this option will be strongly discouraged from traveling to protect the health and safety of your peers and the public. Additional information for Centennial Hall residents is available here.

Regarding travel, please be advised that last night (03/11/2020), the CDC identified Europe as a Level-3 (avoid non-essential travel) and positioned the “rest of the world” at Level-2. In addition, the Department of State raised its advisory level to a Level 3 for the world at this time. As a result of these designations, all ESF-sanctioned international travel – relative to students, staff, and faculty – will be suspended until further notice. In addition, ESF is canceling college-related domestic travel and continues to discourage personal domestic travel for employees. If employees do plan to travel, please complete the form. Our Human Resources team will then provide guidance regarding your return to the college. It is possible you may be asked to work remotely for at least two weeks upon your return.

Here at ESF and around the world, people are taking precautions to protect themselves from the coronavirus. The elderly and those who are
immunocompromised are at a much higher risk for serious complications from the virus. Chronic conditions that affect the immune system include, but are not limited to, heart disease, lung disease, lupus, cancer, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, some rare genetic disorders, and diabetes. Employees for whom the coronavirus may require special precautions should contact Ellen Brown in the Office of Human Resources (315-470-6611).

Sincerely,
Dave Amberg
Interim President