



January 18, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Welcome back to campus for most of our students and welcome to the start of spring semester for all of our students, including those who chose the Remote Learning option! Challenging and imperative journeys in life are about important milestones. Starting last March 11th when The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 global pandemic, it has been difficult at times for many of us to imagine reaching this moment.

Congratulations to everyone for holding our Heidelberg community together!

Like we have done at the University for many years, we are celebrating the life and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. today and throughout this week. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in virtual (and some in person) events as much as possible.

We kicked off our MLK, Jr. Day ON (WEEK)! with Mr. Elrich "Pete" Green (HU '78) giving his virtual presentation called "History through the Lens of Race" this morning. I met Pete and wife Barb (HU '78) over ten years ago and they are wonderful people. They visit the campus annually for alumni and special events, but sadly, they cannot travel here from their New Jersey home now due to the health risks. Pete and I spoke briefly yesterday about the need to keep educating and fighting for racial justice ... a challenging and imperative journey.

We will close out this day with the Tiffin-Seneca Community Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration tonight, another long-standing tradition in our community that normally takes place at a church in town. It is virtual this year. I am so excited that the keynote speaker is Dr. Trevor Bates, the new president of Wilmington College. Trevor spent ten years at Heidelberg, having started two years before I arrived. Trevor is an outstanding person and friend. His address is called "Seeking Justice: Make it Fair." All are welcome.

At the same time, I am delighted that Dean of Student Affairs Chris Abrams reports that our Return to Campus Testing protocol has been successful. We had only 14 positive results out of approximately 1,010 total student tests for a positivity rate of 1.4%, along with 12 inconclusive and 5 invalid results which are being retested. The Ohio 7-day running positivity rate has declined to 11.3%. Low wins.

Congratulations to Student Princes for returning to your campus in good health!

Please stay vigilant and continue to observe all Heidelberg COVID-19 health safety protocols. This includes wearing masks, physical distancing, and no group gatherings larger than ten. We all want a healthy, robust and successful curricular, cocurricular, and extracurricular semester.

Dr. King was born on January 15, 1929, the same year as my dad. If not murdered in 1968 and had he lived the long life that he deserved, he would be 92 years old.

Let us go forward on this challenging and imperative journey together with a clear message of mutual respect in our words, unwavering love and kindness in our hearts, and the demand for universal justice for all in our actions.

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President