



February 15, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

Happy Valentine's Day for yesterday! Happy President's Day for today!

At the intersection of these two national sort of holidays, our University Advancement and Alumni Affairs Team is leading a 24-hour Day of Giving campaign called *Show Your Berg Love!* We are raising money for the Heidelberg Fund and the Student Emergency Support Fund to provide more support for you. Our goal is to raise more money than last year's total of \$58,000!

I want to give a huge shout out to four students and three colleagues. The Advertiser-Tribune published its annual *Progress Edition 2021 Education* report this weekend. Heidelberg had half of the front page and all of the second page. In the opening piece on coping with COVID-19 this year, students Amanda Overy, Anna Cavanaugh, Kamryn Memmer, and Dylan Roth were interviewed at length and featured with photos. Congratulations to each of you for sharing your COVID experiences, speaking candidly about the challenges you faced, and talking about how you and we together have managed this crisis as best as possible on campus! This pandemic has been extremely tough on everyone at Heidelberg and our families. I was very impressed by all of you.

Then we were featured in three articles with photographs on page two. Vice President for Enrollment Management & Marketing Tony Bourne talked strategically about our Tuition Guarantee, our Four-Year Graduation Guarantee, and our new Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship as key elements of our commitment to student educational value and affordability. Executive Director of the Owen Center for Teaching & Learning Courtney DeMayo Pugno provided a great explanation of our integrated approach to supporting faculty and students for the ultimate purpose of improving student learning. Finally, Athletic Training Program Director and Assistant Professor of Athletic Training Ryan Musgrave gave a compelling overview of the exciting launch of our new Master's in Athletic Training Program which will begin this summer. Kudos to Drs. Bourne, DeMayo Pugno, and Musgrave for their clarity, enthusiasm, and conviction in discussing all of these critical ways that we are strengthening our programming, opportunities, and support for students!

We still have hard work to accomplish with COVID-19 this semester. Led by the conscientious care by all of our students, our campus cumulative positivity rate has declined to 1.3%. In fact, we have had only 3 NCAA student-athlete test positive out of 1,000 tests so far this semester! The current Ohio 7-day running positivity rate has also declined to 5.6%. Our updated *Berg COVID-19 Spring 2021 Dashboard* is accessible here: www.heidelberg.edu/dashboard.

Given the improving trends statewide, Governor Mike DeWine lifted the state curfew late last week. While that is encouraging, please do not let your individual and community health guard down. Tiffin is still in a Red Alert county. We do not want to bring an outbreak onto campus.

Let us keep our campus healthy and successful for everyone ... masking, distancing, and testing!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington
President