



March 15, 2021

Dear Heidelberg Students:

One year ago today, we announced that Heidelberg would close down the campus and send everybody home. We were wise to move ahead of the Governor's school closing mandate that came out later, but nonetheless, that was a chilling moment in our institutional history. Everyone knows what COVID-19 has done to our country and the world over the last 12 months.

Fortunately, we have turned a good corner with caution in this health crisis fight. With the threat of new viral strains, the Ohio COVID 7-day running positivity rate remains steady at 3.0%. Seneca County is on Red Alert again and there is an uptick in hospitalizations over the past week. Now 18.0% of our county population has received at least one vaccination. Our cumulative campus positivity rate has declined to 1.0% based on nearly 4,700 tests and we have no active cases. Including the 292 negative tests with the Ohio National Guard on campus last Thursday, our 7-day running positivity rate on the last 599 tests is 0%. That is fabulous! Please see our *Berg COVID-19 Spring 2021 Dashboard* here [www.heidelberg.edu/dashboard](http://www.heidelberg.edu/dashboard).

Yet on the *Ides of COVID March*, we must stay vigilant and not let our community guard down. We have gained so much renewed student activity and shared opportunities on campus together. I ask everyone to not let up on our health and safety protocols.

Many important and wonderful things are happening at Heidelberg this winter to spring.

I was privileged to join the Heidelberg International Women's Day Virtual Panel Discussion last Monday night. With the strong support of Director of Intercultural Student Affairs Julie Arnold, students Hannah Huthmaker, Maram Alforгани, Gabriela Calderon, Stefi Fiume, and Crimson Stuckert presented and shared their views and experiences as undergraduate women across different countries and cultures. Congratulations to all of you, your panel was outstanding!

Head Men's Basketball Coach Andy Bucheit was named OAC Basketball Coach of the Year last week after their impressive 9-2 season. Congratulations, Coach Bucheit! That is the first time for Heidelberg since the inception of this award in 1969.

Assistant Professor of Music Education and Director of Bands Jon Waters has been chosen to direct the first America's Band Directors at the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California next New Year's Day. Congratulations, Professor Waters! That is a significant first for Heidelberg since the Rose Parade started in 1890.

The Heidelberg Master's in Counseling (MAC) Program was recently ranked 19th in the nation by *Best Value Schools*. Congratulations to the MAC Program, which has a 98% completion rate and a 95% job placement rate within one year after graduation!

We should all be very proud of the Heidelberg Athletics Department Coaches and Staff for ensuring that our student-athletes get the opportunity to practice and compete in all 20 sports this semester. We have had only 6 positive results from over 2,100 NCAA-required COVID tests of student-athletes since returning in January.

Let us maintain our campus health and success for everyone ... masking, distancing, and testing!

Respectfully,

Rob Huntington  
President