Dear ATU Campus Community,

The Arkansas Tech University COVID-19 Task Force has developed this framework to help facilitate a safe return to campus. We are excited for this document to be released to support our continued efforts in moving towards something that feels more normal to us at ATU during this complex recovery.

The framework was developed using a phased approach based on included criteria to ensure that ATU is in a position to adapt to the evolving public health situation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that the entire community realize that while the phases are there to allow us a slow transition back to normal operations, it also may be necessary for us to return to an earlier phase of the plan if the public health situation dictates. If the framework or any supporting document does require updates, they will be communicated via OneTech and on the ATU Website.

There are 5 phases of the plan. Phase 0 being a mirror of our all virtual instruction and work from home in the spring, Phase 1-3 allowing for increasing levels of activity on campus, and ending with a Phaseout, which would allow all activities to return to normal while still stressing the importance of social distancing.

Upon release of this framework, we will be in Phase 1. Updates to which phase we are in will be distributed via email to the entire ATU community. Moving from one phase to another will be a joint effort between the ATU COVID-19 Task Force and the ATU Executive Council. In addition, we may anticipate that the framework itself may be updated with the ever changing public health situation.

All departments and offices at ATU should utilize this framework to develop their own operational plans. The purpose of these plans should be to highlight and outline more specifically how the department or office will ensure that the requirements from each phase are being met. These plans should be submitted to the ATU Emergency Manager, Heath Whorton (mwhorton1@atu.edu) and each area's respective vice president for review and approval.

A planning checklist is also being distributed to assist departments and offices with these operational plans. For additional assistance, departments may contact the ATU Emergency Manager.

Below are two additional resources that all community members will find a useful reference moving forward.

- Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html

- Considerations for Reopening Institutions of Higher Education in the COVID-19 Era, https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Considerations_for_Reopening_IHEs_in_the_COVID-19_Era_May2020.pdf

A thank you to the members of the ATU COVID-19 Task Force for their continued service and efforts to facilitate a safe return to our campus: Brandye Bisek, Heath Whorton, Amy Pennington, Joshua McMillian, Kristy Davis, Sam Strasner, Dr. Jamie Stacy, Steve Milligan, Brent Etzel, Julie Ennis, Brett Waldon, David Spicer, Dr. Delton Gordon, Gaby Haulmark, Dr. Linda Birkner, Richard Harris, Dr. Richard Schoephoerster, Robin Joslin, and Yasu Onodera.

And lastly, a thank you to our community. We realize that this has collectively been one of the greatest challenges that we have all faced, but ATU has stepped up to do what needs to be done.

As we continue to make strides toward recovering and returning to normal, we must all prepare to take on new challenges and updates as they are presented to us.

Sincerely,

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