

**Subject:** AU | Support, Community Care, and Resources



Dear Ashford University Faculty,

[Dr. Swenson's message](#) this week acknowledged the challenge of making sense of the events our nation has witnessed in recent days. Knowing that impacts to you and your students continue to grow in variety and measure, we write today to affirm that we hear you; we are with you; and, we focus our work on creating a space in which you and your students can thrive professionally, academically, and ethically.

To that end, remember that you have several networks that offer classroom, policy, and administrative guidance and – most importantly – a supportive ear. Your Faculty Support Community consists of a Faculty Support Consultant or Coach, the Lead Faculty for your discipline, and the Faculty Scheduling Administrator who schedules your courses. The [Colleges tab](#) on the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) website contains contact information for each of these resources. We encourage you to take advantage of this community or to write to [CETL@ashford.edu](mailto:CETL@ashford.edu) when you need help or consultation.

We strive to model the empathy and flexibility that will help students persist and succeed through challenging times by providing a system of support resources. Below you will find a communication sent to all Ashford students offering support. Additionally, we offer you a sample announcement for posting in your classrooms and/or emailing to your students. This announcement acknowledges the varied challenges students face and reminds them of the resources Ashford provides during times of need. Finally, we ask you to review the [Support our Students](#) page on the CETL website. It contains a repository of pertinent information about student issues, guidance on related institutional policies, and a collection of helpful strategies for individualized student communication.

Dr. Swenson reminded us that education is an equalizing factor that gives opportunity to the disenfranchised and inspires society to right its imbalances. Therefore, we respect and value actions you take to ensure empathetic support for our students and our communities.

Sincerely,

**IRIS LAFFERTY / DEAN**  
Ashford University /  
College of Arts & Sciences



**BOB DAUGHERTY / DEAN**  
Ashford University /  
Forbes School of Business & Technology™



## Classroom Announcement

Dear Students,

Understanding that the impacts of the events our nation is witnessing continue to grow and evolve, I want to acknowledge that each of you is facing unique challenges. Please know that I care, am here to work through classroom issues with you, and can point you toward the many useful resources the university offers.

If you need help or want to talk, please contact me at <<chosen contact info>>.

Let's use respect, empathy, and a drive to better the community through education as a light to guide us through this challenging time.

Sincerely,  
<<Instructor>>

*(The following message has been sent to all Ashford University students.)*

**Subject Line:** AU | Support, Community Care, and Resources

Dear {student:fname},

[President Swenson's message](#) this week acknowledged the challenge of making sense of the events our nation has witnessed in recent days. Knowing that impacts to you continue to grow in variety and measure, we write today to affirm that we hear you and we are with you. To quote Dr. Swenson, "Education and love are the way out." Your well-being is of utmost concern.

Recognizing potential for academic impact during this time, instructors have been notified to remain flexible and supportive regarding assignment due dates for those of you requesting support. If you are impacted academically, please connect with your instructor as soon as possible to explore options. Please keep in mind, our entire community may also be experiencing impact and therefore, response may be a bit delayed.

In you need support beyond the classroom, please connect with your academic advisor who can point you to a variety of support services we have in place. If concerns are related to your well-being or assistance accessing support services in your area, please reach out to the Student Advocate Helpline at [Help@ashford.edu](mailto:Help@ashford.edu) to connect with a Student Advocate.

Please know that we are committed to helping you continue with your academic journey and support you during this time.

**Katie Scheie** / VICE PRESIDENT, STUDENT AFFAIRS & UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR  
*Ashford University / Office of the Registrar*

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