



**President Michael M. Crow COVID-19 Update to ASU Faculty and Staff
March 22, 2020
Transcript**

Hi, this is Michael Crow.

I wanted to get to all of you here, at the end of the first week, before the opening of the second week of our digitally enhanced learning environment that we're moving forward for our 70,000+plus traditionally on-campus students, as well as a lot of others that are linked up with us.

I just wanted to say "thank you" to all of you for your efforts, for your work, for your creativity, for your input, for your totally untiring commitment to keeping our students on track.

Here we are in something that I think none of us have ever experienced before called a "pandemic" I call it a "bug hurricane" We're not exactly sure where the "hurricane" is going to shift. What kind of damage it may or may not do. What communities will be hit harder than others. All we know is that it is new, complicated and threatening.

And in the midst of all that, with all of the anxiety that all of us have about what it might mean for us, our families, our communities, our university, you all have stepped up in a fantastic way. It is something that I'm very proud of.

We're fully operational. In fact, not only operational, we're learning. We have faculty and staff working on new ways of teaching, new ways of providing services to students. Huge amounts of staff creativity in new ways of counseling, in new ways of outreach, new tools, new support, new mechanisms. All these things.

It has just been a wondrous thing to watch. I just sit back and I'm very proud of our commitment and how everyone is pitching in. Workers, support staff, instructors, technical staff, administrative staff, library staff, everybody. I can't begin to tell you what our health center is doing and what our student affairs staff are doing. They are just right in the thick of it. Helping everyone on every level.

We've got a lot of complexity. We've got students on campus. We've got students living near campus. We've got students who can't go home. Students who can't go home who are living with us. We're delivering food in new ways, what is called "level 3", where food is being boxed and delivered or picked up without any ability for contamination.

We've got teams of students working in groups and taking their creative energies and applying them to the problems. 3d printing solutions for biomedical issues. We've got students who are stepping up in service mode.

We've got everything you can imagine. It is fantastic to see the institution adapt to the present circumstance, particularly because the present circumstance is so unknown to all of us.

Regarding that circumstance, I'm not exactly sure how things are going to move forward, but we're obviously prepared to operate the university in different modalities through the "hurricane," and I'm also very cognizant of all of you staying safe, to the extent that you can, through social distancing, working from home (if you're able to do that after talking with your supervisors). So, we're excited to be able to keep things moving.

I will check in from time to time just to let you know how things are going and I hope you'll get us ideas, particularly what I'm after are new and exciting things you're doing that everybody should know about, so let us know about that.

If all else fails, let me know at michael.crow@asu.edu. So, stay safe out there. Take care of your families. Stay focused on everything and let's keep this rolling.

Thanks.