

**Joint Statement from the Council of Presidents**

October 2020

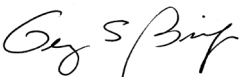
The COVID-19 pandemic has tested our collective resolve as never before. As presidents of Washington's six public four-year college and universities, we thank our outstanding students, families, faculty, and staff for the remarkable resilience, flexibility, and strength you have demonstrated throughout this year as we have all adjusted to a new, unexpected reality. We welcome our new and returning students this fall and appreciate the thoughtful and deliberate work which occurred over the summer to ensure that teaching and learning occurs in a safe, healthy environment.

As the course of the pandemic allows, we look forward to transitioning to more face-to-face interactions for instruction, research and experiential learning. In the meantime, we remain dedicated to providing rich, high quality educational and learning opportunities to our students through other modalities as required by health and safety guidelines. And we will continue to follow thoughtful, careful and transparent decision-making processes that place students at the center.


As communities across the state continue to experience COVID-19, winter and spring term operations may look different from campus to campus. However, we will continue to provide regular and timely communications on our evolving plans. In addition, we as presidents commit to continuing to work together, share information, and learn from each other throughout the remainder of the pandemic and beyond. We remain united in our commitment to ensuring that teaching and learning occurs safely and in collaboration with expert public health advice and guidance.



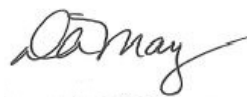
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