



March 5, 2020

Dear Faculty:

GUIDANCE FOR CONTINUITY IF THE CAMPUS IS CLOSED

North Carolina A&T State University and its Student Health Center are carefully monitoring updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus, and are taking appropriate measures to provide for the safety of all students, faculty and staff. This letter communicates how the university's teaching and learning functions will continue if "social distancing" is required leading to the cancellation of face-to-face classes.

1. North Carolina A&T will deliver all instruction using *Blackboard*. A *Blackboard* course shell is currently available for each course offered at A&T. And, *Blackboard Learn* provides faculty and students with a variety of collaboration, communication, assignment, and grading tools.
2. To assist faculty, the university has a comprehensive faculty support system in Blackboard called the *Faculty Commons*. The *Commons* includes a new online faculty orientation and a variety of other resources especially for those who have never taught online. Workshop information and links are included.
3. To assist students, A&T is also providing a virtual student center called the *Online Learner Support Commons*. The *Student Commons* includes an orientation and online student learning essentials. Students will also find resources from offices such as Veterans and Military Affairs, Counseling Services, the Registrar's Office, the Center for Academic Excellence, Bluford Library, and Career Services. There is also a virtual computer lab with SPSS, MATLab, and Microsoft Office software.

Please visit the [Faculty Commons](#) and the [Learner Commons](#) and encourage your students to visit the Learner Commons.

If you have questions related to Blackboard or teaching online, please contact Dr. Tracie Lewis, Director of Instructional Technology Training and Development (ITTD).

Note: Training will be provided on Monday and Tuesday, March 9th and 10th, 2020, at 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. each day. More details will follow.

Sincerely,

Beryl C. McEwen, PhD
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

BCM/dpj