

A word to our nursing students,

As we end the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, our thoughts and emotions vary across a wide spectrum. The beauty around us here in Boone, and the cool, crisp air can cause our spirits to soar. At the same time, we find ourselves bewildered and perplexed as we navigate all the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are particularly saddened by the loss of Chad Dorrill, a fellow mountaineer, and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his friends and family.

As you move forward in your class, lab, and clinical work, please be reminded that the Nursing Department Faculty recognize the difficulties and distractions you face sometimes on a day-to-day basis. We admire your courage and want to support you in every way possible. We understand that your coursework is not easy, particularly in these trying days. Still, our goal is that you become prepared to deliver competent and compassionate nursing care when you complete your degree. Please continue to communicate with us and let us know how we can best assist you. Our doors are open, and we welcome dialogue with you through email, telephone and virtually.

If you find you need additional support, help is available through the University Counseling Services (828-262-3180), the Office of Disability Resources (828-262-3056), Daymark's 24-hour Crisis Line (877-492-2785). Student Health Services (828-262-3100), and the University Police Department (828-262-6900).

We encourage you to continue your good work, stay focused, and do everything possible to prevent exposure and spread of the COVID virus. Avoid engaging in large group activities and do your part to educate those around you to protect the vulnerable. We are proud of you as App State nursing students and look to you to lead by example. Keep on keeping on!

Department of Nursing Faculty and Staff