



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 19, 2020

Good Morning,

I begin this week's update with a word of appreciation to the staff members who assisted with Saturday's diploma service. Each of you went the extra mile to provide the Class of 2020 with a special celebration of their achievement. Thank you!

Monday, we observed the official launch of the academic year with a modified version of our traditional Convocation service. For those of you who don't have access to Canvas, I'm including a link to the service along with a link to a movie clip that I reference in my address. I hope that the address provides a word of encouragement to you in these challenging days.

Convocation: <https://youtu.be/lyCVfLEo9vE>

[Apollo 13 video:](https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted_003&hspart=iry&p=Apollo+13+splashdown+scene#id=4&vid=4610aa4e8445a8837fe5cc245f51d03&action=click)

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-iry-fullyhosted_003&hsimp=yhs-fullyhosted_003&hspart=iry&p=Apollo+13+splashdown+scene#id=4&vid=4610aa4e8445a8837fe5cc245f51d03&action=click

These challenges include, of course, our concerted efforts to provide a top-quality educational experience while navigating through a pandemic. I am grateful for the services and leadership that Deanna Palmer, our COVID-19 Response Coordinator, is providing. As COVID cases occur on campus, Deanna oversees the quarantine process and the isolation process. One of her primary tasks is contact tracing. When an individual contacts Deanna, these are the steps she will follow:

- An individual who tests positive must be *isolated* for 10 days; Deanna works with them to identify people with whom they have been in close contact. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>
- An individual who has been in close contact with someone who is COVID positive must be *quarantined* for 14 days. Deanna assists with placing individuals in quarantine.
- Deanna's goal is to communicate with contacts within 24 hours of being made aware of a COVID case.
- If you have been exposed, Deanna or member of her team will be in touch with you. Please understand that HIPAA regulations prohibit her from identifying by name individuals who are COVID positive.

To date, we have several students and one part-time staff member in quarantine (COVID-exposed); we also have several students and one staff member in isolation (COVID-

positive). Beginning tomorrow, employees may check status reports on Blue Streak; students may check status reports on Share Point. We can find reassurance in knowing that our system for addressing these cases proactively is functioning properly. Please direct all COVID-19 questions to covid19@bmc.edu. For additional information, visit the BMC website: <https://bmc.edu/Coronavirus-Information>

Let's continue to claim Psalm 121, trusting daily in the help that comes from the Lord.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara C. McMillin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barbara C. McMillin
President