

My dear colleagues,

How has your day been? Many of us are beginning the quest to balance teaching remotely with homeschooling, reorganizing our personal spaces into office-like activity sites, and managing household tasks. We might be starting to mourn the loss of research time or wondering if social plans will reappear by May. And, most of us are focused on our students and the changes in our teaching that will hold them with us and their future plans.

Today I've reconnected with the TLC staff, all students, to plan our remote work. They shared a variety of experiences with their instructors as well as a great deal of uncertainty about the coming weeks. I reassured them that we too are feeling uncertain and will be discovering these new spaces together. And I asked them to do what I've suggested to you: reach out to their peers and encourage them to stay with their courses.

Several of you have written today with questions, and I am reaching out across the college and university for answers. When we get to the end of the week, I'll sift through my emails and start categorizing the inquiries so that we can share information more coherently.

For now, let's remind ourselves of what it means to be dependent, independent, and interdependent and how these qualities might be useful to consider in our teaching. When we begin a course or new concept or skill, we have some expectation that our students will be dependent on us for explanations and modeling. As we develop the learning content, we encourage our students to become more independent, thinking and looking for answers on their own. And yet, the nature of a class is interdependent, with a reciprocity between students and instructors that enhances capacities and understanding for both.

It is in this spirit that I offer the following resources, seeing our students neither as wholly dependent on us for assistance nor independent of us for needs but interdependent, with their knowledge, experiences, personalities, and dreams to offer in exchange for sharing ours.

Please consider posting these to your Blackboard course or other site you are using this spring, and please be sure to remind students of them repeatedly. These are the most up to date sources I have; as our circumstances change, I will share updates.

STUDENT RESOURCES! (and have I mentioned how excited I am to share these?)

Enrollment-Related Needs

- Jay Express (Registrar, Financial Aid, Testing & Evaluation, and the Admissions office)
<https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/jay-express-services-and-em-call-center>

Emergency Funding and Food Pantry

The following Services of the Wellness Center (Emergency Funding & Food Pantry) will be available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am - 3pm until further notice.

- Students may submit EF applications in person on these two days or via the EF email at emergencyfunding@jjay.cuny.edu or email maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu, nacevedo@jjay.cuny.edu.

The Food Pantry will operate in tandem with NYC Food Bank operating hours.

Mental Health and Counseling

- Counseling Services
counseling@jjay.cuny.edu
- Emergency and Crisis Contacts
<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/emergency-crisis-contacts>

Immigrant and DACA Assistance

- Online counseling for immigrant John Jay students
Email luzrb08@gmail.com to schedule an online appointment (phone or video chat)
- Immigration: Resources, Problems and Policies: Immigration Resources for Students/Staff/Faculty/Families
<https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/immigration/resources>

I have not included housing or healthcare as I do not have information that seems relevant to our current situation of isolations and quarantines.

Thanks for all you do, each of you. Would you please take time for a few slow breaths and then time to note what you've done the past week and done well? There is much left to resolve; we are much readier for a successful semester after all you have done.

Be well. Be you. We are more than capable.

Warmly,

Gina