



MEMORANDUM

TO: TSU Family
FROM: Kenneth Huewitt, Interim President
DATE: Monday, January 4, 2021
SUBJECT: New Year Message

Welcome to 2021 and all of the exciting possibilities for Texas Southern University! As we start a new year and a new semester together, I want to update you on how we are continuing to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, while providing a pathway for progress for our campus operations.

We are vigilantly monitoring local, state and federal health guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While progress with the vaccine is promising, we cannot relax our health and safety practices. Instead, we must heighten them at this time. The expanded [Return to Tigerland](#) Task Force has recommended that the University operates at the Phase 2 level of the published COVID-19 action plan. Campus activity and density must be measured and reduced. This means students will continue to take classes in the online, hybrid and face-to-face formats. Employees will report to work in various capacities, as approved in advance by their area vice presidents.

The Texas Southern University community is to be commended for your commitment and adherence to our *Tigers Care* initiative. Because of your compliance, our overall case numbers are considerably low in proportion to our campus population. While you may see others making a full return to the face-to-face instructional modality, we recognize our unique position geographically and demographically and believe a slow and steady approach is best. Facial coverings, temperature checks and limited building access protocols will continue to be in place in all campus buildings.

I am pleased that COVID-19 testing will be expanded this semester thanks to the recently announced Just Project at TSU, which launches this month. We are grateful to Thermo Fisher Scientific and the Gates Foundation for making this possible and allowing TSU to take the lead and serve other Texas HBCUs as a testing sample hub.

Please refer to tsu.edu for important dates and information related to the health center, classes, housing, dining, and restricted campus event schedules. Enter the COVID-19 hotline number into your phone (713) 313-5099. And remember to download the *LiveSafe* app for urgent health and safety information. Remember, you have shown your resilience and proven that *Tigers Care*. Let's kick off this semester with a renewed sense of hope and a commitment to be at our TSU best.

Go Tigers!

Kenneth Huewitt