



March 13, 2020

Williamson Community,

The last several weeks have been full of uncertainty as everyone across the globe faces the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). We have all been challenged to adjust our daily schedules, lifestyles, and obligations at work and at home. I am extremely proud of the way that our community has responded to this rapidly changing situation, always keeping the safety of our students, staff, and faculty foremost in our priorities.

Williamson has served its students for over 130 years and will continue to do so. It has been over 100 years since Williamson has had to deal with the threat of a pandemic—the last time was during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918-1919. Today, we are making the adjustments we need to remain open and fully operational. We have the technology, ingenuity, and well-trained faculty and staff necessary to continue our operations and we have a commitment to continue to serve our students.

Out of an abundance of caution, Williamson has decided to take a number of measures:

- In-person classes and shops will transition to a fully virtual (online) format as soon as possible and will continue that way through Friday, April 3rd. We will reassess and communicate procedures for the balance of the semester by April 8th. The earliest in-person classes and shops would resume is Tuesday, April 14th (after the scheduled spring break).
- Students who can go home and have access to the appropriate technology for online learning and engagement are encouraged to do so. Students who choose to remain on campus and continue to live in the dormitories will be provided additional guidance from the administration.
- All Williamson academic and social events are cancelled through April 13th. Those events and the remainder of the events on the academic calendar will be reassessed at that time.
- All Intercollegiate spring sports are cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
- Williamson's campus, offices and services will remain open. Employees will continue to report to work as operations will continue. The administration will work to develop plans for alternative work scenarios as circumstances warrant.

We do not have any reported cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) on campus and currently have only one positive test in Delaware County. However, cases continue to rise in our region. We are acting now with the hope of mitigating the spread of the virus, protecting those who are most vulnerable, and alleviating travel burdens and conflicts for students who have made plans for spring break scheduled from April 6th through April 13th.

Faculty and staff are quickly making progress in preparing for virtual instruction. The innovative thinking and collaboration that will be required to make this happen is considerable, but I am confident that our team will be able to provide excellent instruction through this time.

We realize that this global situation is disruptive in many ways, but we believe that our decision to continue our great mission while keeping our community as safe as possible is the right course of action. More detailed information will be continually provided for our faculty, staff, students and families, including whom to contact with additional questions. This information will also be continually updated on our [website](#). We are working hard to anticipate questions and concerns so we can proactively address them. We will do our very best to respond to additional questions and concerns in a timely manner.

As a community, let's be patient with and supportive of one another. I appreciate your continued attention to adjustments and future updates through our [website](#). Practice self-care and if you are feeling sick, please stay home.

During this Lenten season, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. Please join me in praying for those affected by coronavirus, here in our community and around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Rounds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael J. Rounds, P.E.  
President