

April 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As we continue to practice social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, maintaining connections with others is key to sustaining a sense of normalcy. That's why I believe sharing University news with you – whether it be about faculty, staff or students – can serve as an important part of our days during this unique time. I hope you feel the same way and that these emails are able to keep you engaged and connected to our University family.

With that in mind, I wanted to bring your attention to two things today:

- First, everyone should have received an email yesterday from Lynne Motyl, chief human resources officer, regarding changes to leave and the State System's adherence to the governor's direction on this front beginning April 11. [Lynne's full email detailing the situation, with additional FAQs, is available in the COVID-19 Communication Archive.](#)
- Second, [the University website features a story about Jayla Brown](#), a first-year psychology major from McKeesport. Brown is one of five students in the Bonner Leader Program, a program in its inaugural year at SRU where students receive a wage to lead a community-service partnership for the University. To learn more about the Bonner Program, [click here](#).

I have no doubt that we'll get through and come out even better on the other side because our University community is resilient and because we are all "Rock Solid." Stay safe out there. Take care of yourselves and practice social distancing. Keep on working, studying, teaching and learning, which we are all doing as a community. But most importantly, keep an eye out for each other.

Yours,

Bill