

FINLANDIA UNIVERSITY

April 10, 2020 Weekly President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Another Friday is here. Thank you for what we have achieved together this past week. I'm encouraged by the ways in which we are accompanying our students as they approach the end of spring semester 2020.

This week I am especially encouraged by the efforts among faculty and academic leadership as they innovate with practices and processes to ensure our students are able to complete this semester successfully.

I Zoomed this past Wednesday at noon with TRIO-SSS and others. It was an enjoyable blend of casual and work-related conversations that left me feeling privileged to be on the same team with such committed and competent professionals.

Our weekly Zoom meeting with the Board of Trustees included various campus updates including enrollment and finances. Finlandia, like all higher education institutions is, and will be, impacted by COVID-19 in very significant ways, the extent to which we cannot fully know at this time. We are building scenarios to address the most likely impacts. Our Board, together with the executive team and other campus leadership are doing this work now. Next week I will be offering more information.

At the same time, Finlandia continues to track its applications for CARES Act funding. Should we be successful with these applications, the impact will be very positive. At the same time, success with these funds will not eliminate the need to reduce operating costs over the next four months.

Yesterday's executive order from the Governor's office makes clear that we will remain with our current level of restrictions through the end of the month. Please go [here](#) if you have not yet read her April 9 announcement.

I've included a graphic I alluded to last week. It asks the question, Who do I choose to be during COVID-19? Though the graphic illustrates an arrow-like progression from fearing through learning to growing, my experience tends to be otherwise. I find, on any given day, or in any given week, a messier mix of all three. Yet, I choose to be that person whose days and weeks are lived nearer the outer ring. Be well. PJ



