Thursday Greetings, International Wildcats!

I am happy to announce that the office of International Education and Global Engagement will begin sending you daily email updates during the COVID-19 crisis. These emails will be sent to you between 5-6 pm PST Monday - Fridays. This will not be a repeat of the daily messages sent by our University President, but rather a supplement to that information that is focused on your unique needs as international students.

Remember, we love questions! No question is too small, and your questions help us understand what international students want and need to know. We will respond to your emails as quickly as possible, and you might find that one of your questions ends up in our daily announcements so that all students will benefit!

Take care of yourselves and each other,
*Tasha & Cindy*

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**International Wildcat COVID-19 Update for March 19**

1. **Attention Residents of University Housing**
   - **Reminder - Deadline to request to stay in University Housing is tomorrow, March 20.**
     If you want to stay in University Housing for the remainder of the spring semester do the following:
     - Log into the [Resident Center](https://www.csuchico.edu/housing/campus-life/resident-center)
     - Click on Spring 2020 Plan on the top menu bar
     - Select Request to Remain in University Housing form

   - **Room Access Requests Required for Spring Break Travelers:**
     If you live in University-owned housing and left your things in your room while traveling, please complete a “Room Access Request” as soon as possible on the University Housing website. This will allow you to retrieve your things: [https://www.csuchico.edu/housing/frequently-asked-questions/housing-covid019-updates.shtml](https://www.csuchico.edu/housing/frequently-asked-questions/housing-covid019-updates.shtml)

2. **Did you travel over spring break and plan to return to Chico?**
   Important considerations as you re-enter Chico:
   - **If you have roommates who stayed in Chico while you were away, they may feel worried about your potential increased exposure to COVID-19 due to traveling. It is important that you understand that this is nothing personal toward you – it is simply their desire to limit the exposure to infection to the greatest extent possible.**

   - There are currently no confirmed cases of the virus in our county. All students, faculty, and staff have been extremely vigilant about practicing good hygiene habits and being mindful of social distancing (maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others) while
you were away, as many people are very worried about getting ill and passing it on to high-risk individuals.

- Demonstrating care for your friends and roommates in Chico will go a long way, and social distancing is an excellent way to do this. We recommend that you communicate with your friends and roommates before you see them and tell them that you care about them and want to minimize their risk. Ask them if they would feel more comfortable avoiding contact. Telling someone that you care about their health and well-being is always a sign of a true friend.

- A gentle reminder – an individual could have minimal or no symptoms of this virus and still be contagious! If we all follow the precautions that have been sent to us by the University, we will minimize the risk to ourselves and our community. Remember – we are all in this together as a global Wildcat community.

- Also, if you live in a University-owned residence, please see note above to request room access when you return to collect your things.

3. Are you planning to return to your home country or travel within the United States?
   Please refer to the following helpful travel advisories, which are updated real-time as airports are closed, reopened, etc. It is important that you inform yourself as to travel restrictions so that you can make an informed decision. Remember – these things are changing very quickly. If you are planning to travel, you should check these advisories often.
   - U.S. State Department Global Level 4 Health Advisory (domestic and international travel)
   - International Country-Specific Travel Advisories:

4. Forward your Wildcat email to your personal email account (recommended)
   Some students have difficulty accessing the Wildcat email account in their home countries because it is a Google product. If this applies to you, and you plan to return home, we recommend that you forward your Wildcat email to your personal email.

   Note- Students affected by restrictions on Google products, including YouTube, will receive additional instructions and information in a separate email early next week.

   - Instructions to link your email accounts: https://support.csuchico.edu/TDClient/1984/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=9102
5. **OPT Applications**  
USCIS is currently closed during the crisis and we have not been informed as to their process on new OPT applications during the closure. We will send an email to all graduating seniors with updates on the revised processes early next week.

6. **Social Security Card Applications**  
Many students were in the process of applying for a social security card when the crisis hit. Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration has closed their offices across the country, including in Chico. If this affects you, there is an FAQ page on their website, including a contact to inquire if they will begin processing applications online (they currently only process renewals online, not new card applications): [https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/)

7. **Fall 2020 Course Enrollment**  
Students have expressed concern about fall course enrollment, including how to accomplish mandatory advising sessions and how to select courses. We anticipate you will receive instructions on the modifications to this process in the next few weeks.

In Solidarity,  
Tasha & Cindy