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## **Support Students, Build Community, and Take Advantage of Resources**

Further to President Gash's message, faculty and staff have the opportunity to strengthen the sense of community during this time of remote work and provide our students with a high-touch experience as they continue their learning online. Our students are watching how we respond to this unprecedented crisis - how we treat one another, how we address challenges, how we continue our work, and how we keep our faith.

### **Support Students**

Faculty and staff, including those who are working remotely and may have some additional bandwidth, are invited and encouraged to support our students in several ways. Please receive approval from your supervisor to spend a portion of your regular shift in this way.

- Write hand-written or email notes to individual students to provide encouragement.
- Lead a care group; be assigned a small group of students to pray over, invite for online small group conversation, make phone calls, and write notes of encouragement.
- Lead an online student Bible study.
- Prepare individual care baskets for students who become ill.
- Prepare baskets for residence halls that include wrapped snacks, teas, journals, craft supplies, etc.

Please contact [Human Resources](#) (310.506.4397) to learn how to support our students.

## Build Community

As many faculty and staff adjust to remote working environments, it is crucial to intentionally build community. Especially during periods of high stress, social connection is vital for good health and important for productivity. Though we may not be engaged in face-to-face encounters, the Pepperdine community must still remain strong and connected, known for its high-touch service and concern for each person. Consider:

- Reviewing tips to normalize the new work environment on the COVID-19 Planning and Preparedness website.
- Joining weekly Zoom Chapel for faculty and staff, a time for prayer and encouragement.
- Staying in touch with existing affinity groups by meeting online or over the phone.
- Creating group wellness challenges through Health Advocate to stay healthy and active at home.

## Take Advantage of Resources

The University acknowledges the emotional impact that the COVID-19 situation might have on those in our community. The Health Advocate EAP+Work/Life program is a core benefit available to all participating employees through your benefit package.

- HealthAdvocate gives you access to licensed professional counselors who can provide short-term phone, video, or in-person counseling to help you better cope with personal, family, and work issues.
- Work/Life specialists are also available to help you locate the right supportservice, from childcare and eldercare to legal help.

Visit the [HealthAdvocate website](#) or call 866.799.2728 for assistance.



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