



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

January 18, 2021

Dear Members of Academic Affairs,

Welcome to the start of the spring trimester and Happy Martin Luther King Day! I hope each of you found time to rest and reset over the past few weeks, and that you feel ready to engage and support our students. Thinking about Dr. King, I believe this quote is a good one to start our term: “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”

I recognize that so much is happening in our country and around the world; the pandemic and political unrest likely top the list of issues that are front of mind for many of us each day. Thank you for your continued dedication to our community and our work, especially in this time. Please remember that my office, along with the associate provosts, deans, associate deans, department chairs, directors, and other members of the academic leadership team are here when you need us. We’re all in this together.

As many of you know, I have been holding virtual office hours since the summer. The office hours are completely optional for members of Academic Affairs, and I have heard from many of you that it has been helpful to connect with colleagues in that space to raise issues, share good news, and confirm information. With that in mind, I will continue holding office hours through the spring trimester. The office hours will be held every two weeks and will alternate between Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons. I will send Outlook invitations with the relevant Zoom details momentarily. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you would like to address a specific topic during those office hours.

Additionally, I’ve attached a message that Andrew Shepardson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, sent to all students and their families at the end of last week regarding COVID policies for the semester. I’m sharing this letter with all of you so that you are aware of the expectations that are in place for our students as we kick off the term, and to reinforce the various measures we’re taking to keep all members of the community safe and healthy.

Thank you again for all that you do. I’m looking forward to a successful spring term.



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Cordially,

Donna Maria Blancero, PhD
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers