Dear Students,

I hope each of you are well. As I am writing my Letter from the Director, saying that things have changed at The University of Akron, and in the world, would be a serious understatement.

I have had the privilege of talking with many of you as we migrated to online classes due to COVID-19. I have been impressed with your resolve to make the best of this situation.

"We rise together" is not just a tag line, but a description of what you are doing as you continue to work with your professors, embrace new technology and interact with all the campus resources that continue to be available to you remotely. Instead of walking into an office on campus, you are emailing the office. It is our hope that you are still feeling a connection with the Office of Accessibility staff that goes beyond the physical campus.

As we wrap up this spring semester and begin the summer semester, rest assured that the team in the Office of Accessibility will be there for you. Whether we are physically back in our offices or the stay in place order continues a while longer, we continue to be here for you. every step of the way. Your disability specialist is looking forward to working with you as we look forward to a new semester.

Feel free to email your Disability Specialist to let your them know how you are doing, and if you have any questions about your classes.

I wish each of you good health and look forward to another semester to working with you.

We rise better together!

Kelly
THE OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY'S REMOTE OPERATIONS

The Office of Accessibility staff continues to work hard to support students with disabilities remotely. The OA has adapted their practices and services to best serve students virtually.

What does this mean for you? Your disability specialist is still available to meet with you virtually for academic support sessions, individual student appointments, intakes, and information sessions; your accommodations can still be accessed remotely; and you can still "walk in" via Microsoft Teams live chat for assistance with general inquiries, STARS, and to schedule appointments.

Information regarding the Office of Accessibility's remote services can be found online at: https://uakron.edu/access/temporary-closure-faqs. We will keep this page up-to-date with the most current and accurate information about the Office of Accessibility's remote operations during the temporary campus closure.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON HANDSHAKE

Are you seeking internship, co-op, or job opportunities? Check out The University of Akron's networking and job board: Handshake.

For assistance with applying including a resume review, cover letter review, mock interview and more, students can contact Career Services at 330.972.7747 or career@uakron.edu.

HOPE AND HEALING SURVIVOR RESOURCE CENTER

Virtual Office Hours

A chance to speak with an advocate virtually to receive emotional support during our time at home.

EMAIL US AT: INFO-RCC@SCMCBWS.ORG

You will receive your own virtual meeting room that is confidential where you will meet with an advocate and get the emotional support that is needed and any resources!
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has an OOD College2Careers counselor available for eligible students with disabilities at The University of Akron!

What is Ohio College2Careers?
OOD is the state agency that helps individuals with disabilities obtain and retain employment and provide career development services. OOD serves individuals with physical, intellectual, sensory, and mental health disabilities. This new partnership is between Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Ohio’s state college and university system, including the University of Akron, and Ohio businesses. This new partnership includes a C2C counselor located at 15 universities statewide. An OOD College2Careers counselor is available to Zips at The University of Akron, Career Services – Student Union #211.

What a C2C Counselor can provide to eligible UA students:
- Provide additional supports for UA students with disabilities who are eligible for OOD services.
- Career exploration & career counseling
- Assistance navigating Ohio Means Jobs resources
- Assistive technology
- Internships & employment resources
- Connection to an expansive employer partner network

Contact OOD C2C at The University of Akron to schedule a phone or video/virtual appointment:

Mara Byers
Email: Mara.Byers@ood.ohio.gov
Phone: 330-972-2163

For further information online, please visit:
https://ood.ohio.gov/Students-14/Ohio-College2Careers
https://www.uakron.edu/career/faq

A STUDENT’S GUIDE TO LEARNING FROM HOME

SET YOUR SPACE
Find an area in your house where you can sit comfortably and focus.
Make it separate to your relaxation space. Ideally away from a TV screen or other distractions.

TAKE NOTES
Stuck in a webinar zoning out? Note-taking keeps your mind engaged.

LESSEN DISTRACTIONS
Harness your imagination and picture that you’re at school and not at home.
Lock your phone away if you need to - don’t be afraid to ask your parents to intervene.

CHANGE IT UP
You probably have a schedule for your lessons, but if things are becoming difficult to focus on, take a 5-min break and come back to it - just let your teacher know.

TAKE BREAKS
Get up once in a while. Have a snack.

SPEAK UP & ASK FOR HELP
When things get tough, don’t just push through it. Ask your parents, or reach out to your teacher.

JOURNAL IT
Use a journal to track your progress or any questions you might want to ask your teacher about the work.
STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION
During the temporary closure, email is often the most efficient way to get in touch with the Office of Accessibility staff. Their contact information is listed below. If you do not know who your disability specialist is, you can find their name on your STARS dashboard under "Primary Advisor".

- **Kelly Kulick**
  - Director
  - kkulick@uakron.edu

- **Jessica DeFago**
  - Associate Director
  - jld4@uakron.edu

- **Tess Miller**
  - Disability Specialist
  - tmiller1@uakron.edu

- **Ashley Haas**
  - Disability Specialist
  - ahaas@uakron.edu

- **Heather Rose**
  - Disability Specialist
  - hrose@uakron.edu

- **Leigh Sveda**
  - Adaptive Technology & Service Coordinator
  - lab10@uakron.edu

- **Natalie Bendel**
  - Office Manager & Testing Coordinator
  - nab87@uakron.edu

SUGGESTION BOX
What would you like see in future issues of the Office of Accessibility Newsletter? Send your ideas to nab87@uakron.edu.

OFFICE INFO
Office of Accessibility
Simmons Hall 105
The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44325-6213

Hours:
Spring: M-F 8AM-5PM
Summer: M-F 8AM-4:30PM

Phone: 330-972-7928
TDD: 330-972-5764
E-mail: access@uakron.edu

E-TUTORING
Remote tutoring options are available for students online through etutoringonline.org.

Need help navigating e-tutoring? Message us on Teams during virtual office hours. Virtual office hours schedules can be found online at https://uakron.edu/access/temporary-closure-faqs.

self advocacy SKILLS
- Communicate with your professors
- Be confident
- Set goals
- Get involved
- Find a community
- Celebrate your successes
- Ask for help

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