Dear Yellowjackets:

We write to you today excited that the converted newly online courses are just about ready to launch here! The formal start date is Monday, March 30 and we are ready to go for a great learning experience with you. Your instructors have been working very hard during this extended two week spring break time---they didn’t have a break---and they are excited to try this new adventure with you.

Here's some key information that might help you get started:

- **Check in with your instructor sometime Friday-Sunday:** send a little email or let them know how you are doing right now or share any concerns that you might have about this new course experience. They need to hear from you to know you are doing okay despite the COVID-19 challenges.

- **Get connected with Canvas and your specific courses:** take your time this weekend and look through the course. See all the great functions that exist in Canvas. Get familiar with the different parts of it.

- **Watch for the instructor email coming to you no later than TOMORROW, March 27:** That communication will update you on all that you need to know going forward.

- **Schedule your calendar:** setting a new routine for yourself will be very important to success. Check out the new plan from your instructor and then plan ahead. Set out a rhythm for your day. Mark it in your calendar. We are ALL doing this important planning given the disruptions of COVID-19. Talk to your instructor or advisor for some tips and techniques.

- **Ask questions:** If you have any questions, concerns or other issues, PLEASE contact your instructor, your advisor and, if needed, cetl@uwsuper.edu. The Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (CETL) has a full team waiting to serve you and help you figure out any issues that you might have. Please email them and they will get back to you ASAP. No problem is too big or small for our fine CETL team.

- **Reach out to your advisor NOW:** Please schedule your academic advising session with your primary advisor as soon as possible to continue plans for Summer and Fall. Your advisors want to help you keep your plans moving forward and they are ready to advise you with customized advice during this time.

- **Look at the guide to effective learning online:** we have attached a handy-dandy guide to learning effectively online. We will keep posting more materials on the COVID-19 website as well.

We are committed to your success! We can all work together during this time so that YOU can successfully finish this semester and stay on track. COVID-19 has brought many things that are
challenging into our lives BUT it has also brought some unexpected opportunities that we should not forget:

- Teachers become learners and learners can become teachers—role reversals! Help each other out and be patient.
- Working and learning remotely can be done very effectively for both teachers and students: UW-Superior is a regional and national leader in doing this already. We can do it and you can have a great experience.
- By working remotely and at home, you can bring together the various strands of your life into one coherent beautiful tapestry of living—there might be good things and much joy in such an experience.
- We will all learn about resilience of the human spirit, strength in the midst of pandemic crisis and finding the joy and meaning of life despite sound restrictions.

YOU are the most important reason why we are here at UW-Superior. We are TOGETHER WITH YOU!

Please let us know if we can support you in any way on this learning journey you have at UW-Superior. We thank you for your patience, commitment and flexibilities to date.

Take care,

Maria and Nick

Here’s some inspiring quotes that might life your spirits today:

“Learn from the past, live in the now and be optimistic about the future.”  Anonymous

“We can achieve what we can conceive and believe.”  Mark Twain

“Any person’s life will be filled with constant and unexpected encouragement if they make up their mind to do their level best each day.”  Booker T. Washington

“You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.”  Eleanor Roosevelt

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