



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND  
**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Dear Students,

I know that the past few weeks have been a bit of a whirlwind for all of us, and I hope that you all are heeding the advice of state, federal, and world-wide authorities to protect yourselves and vulnerable populations in our community by staying home, washing your hands, and practicing social-distancing techniques. I believe that some disruption to our daily lives and tolerance for inconvenience now will benefit everyone in the long run, and I know that we, as a school, campus, state, and nation are up for this task.

As you are aware, all classes will resume in an online format beginning Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Over the past several weeks, the campus has been working with the faculty and staff to move face-to-face classes to the new format, and the faculty and staff in the School of Education have been undergoing training and professional development in an attempt to make this shift as smooth as possible. We have also worked with student teachers and undergraduate and graduate students in field, practicum, and internship courses to modify expectations in light of the ever-changing contexts in our community-based settings. Those of you who are in the field should already be aware of many of these adjustments.

In the coming weeks, you will hear more about additional accommodations that we may need to make with regard to checkpoint and graduation requirements, all in an attempt to support you and to help you continue with your educational goals and plans with as little disruption as possible. There will be speed-bumps, but we will manage them together.

Please do continue to check your SoE email for announcements about program plans and decisions that will be made in the coming days, and also continue to follow the School of Education Facebook page. Stay in touch with your advisors and your instructors as we all move to online formats for interaction and communication, and don't be afraid to reach out if you need assistance or even just some encouragement as we close up the semester.

Educators and counselors are adaptable, resilient, creative, and strong. As a student in the School of Education, you have made the conscious decision to become a member of a helping profession that is dedicated to promoting the common good for all; and the faculty and staff in the School of Education are very much a part of those helping traditions as well. We want to see you succeed. We want to see you become teachers, counselors, and school leaders. We are committed to helping you, and, together we will be able to weather this crisis. Stay in touch, stay informed, and, please, stay safe.

**Hope Smith Davis, Ed.D.**  
**Dean**  
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