

As we look ahead to the fall semester, we want to assure students and families that – no matter what COVID-19 looks like in August – GCU has plans in place that will allow everyone to either start or continue in their classes in an environment that keeps students, faculty and staff as safe as possible.

We continue to pray that the coronavirus pandemic will have subsided by then and we are making plans to welcome students back to our Phoenix campus in the same way we have for the last 12 years – with many of the exciting and spirited activities that mark our inviting community and welcoming culture.

### **Student choice**

If, as we expect, we are able to open the campus back up in the fall semester, we want students and families to know that our strategy involves giving them a personal choice in the learning modality that best suits them.

If there are students who have underlying health conditions, have family members who are high-risk COVID-19 candidates, or simply feel uncomfortable living and studying in a dense campus population, we will support that by providing options to allow them to continue their coursework online for the first semester or even the entire 2020-21 academic year.

For those who are comfortable being back on the campus in the fall, they will join a welcoming, robust community operating under whatever Arizona health guidelines exist at the time. We will share more information in the coming weeks as we communicate with local health officials and learn more about the status of COVID-19.

Because of GCU's significant experience and expertise in online education, we are better equipped than any university to ensure that all students are able to move forward in their degree program – whether that's in person, online, or some combination thereof – while ensuring the health and safety of the GCU community.

The University is preparing for its best year yet, despite the unique challenges facing us all. Through them we believe the strength of our campus community will only grow, just as faith is refined when difficulties arise.