Transcript: Mary Opperman Message  
MARCH 18, 2020

Good afternoon, it is Wednesday March 18th and for those of you I don't know my name is Mary Opperman, I'm the Vice President and Human Resources Officer here at Cornell University.

We just concluded a Zoom meeting that the Employee Assembly hosted and what we found is that we quickly maxed out in the number of participants.

So we know that there are a lot of people in our staff community that have questions and are looking for information and guidance.

So one of the things that we had been planning to do, and we're going to kick that off right now, is to at least a couple of times a week post short video information that you can that you can use to help you during this time.

What I would ask is if you have suggestions for videos that you would like, and I give you the assurance they all won't be me, please send them to the V.P. H.R. mailbox, or to me directly, and we'll curate those and try to get some helpful videos out.

So this one is simply to acknowledge the fact that we're in a difficult time. We don't have all the answers. That's true here at Cornell and that's true in the country, and frankly it's true globally.

And having a situation evolve in this unprecedented way with no really clear answers yet is very unsettling, and I want to acknowledge that. And I want to thank all of you for how you've handled yourself during this time, and that includes asking the difficult questions even though sometimes I don't really have the answers, and neither do others.

We can't really have a dialogue unless people have the trust to ask difficult questions, so I want to thank you for that. Just a couple of things to share. when we start these video... this video series there'll be high-level updates on policies and implementation will also be putting in some videos around training and opportunities that are available and some self care videos around how to take care of yourself if you're... have questions or concerns about your own safety, or the safety of your family, but also we have a lot of people working remotely for the first time, and they don't necessarily know how to do that in a way that feels healthy for them.

So we'll put in a number of these and hopefully you'll find them helpful.

So I do want to also acknowledge some of the amazing work that's being done across the campus. We have
Student and Campus Life staff really working to help our students through an unprecedented and unexpected time for them as well. We have a number of people who are helping get our virtual online instructions ready to be started. And all sorts of things happening across the campus that we didn't know we would need to do even just a couple of weeks ago, so thank you for everything that you're doing.

You can watch these videos at our website, and I'm going to give you the website address because there's lots of great information there, and we've been trying to put that out in together in a way that you'll find a little easier to navigate.

So it's hr.cornell.edu/covid19. We'll also be putting information on the 'Working at Cornell' Facebook page.

So watch both of those for updates, and in the meantime take care of yourselves. If you need help reach out, we're here to help you, and remember to breathe.

Thank you.