Dear Neighbors,

At mid-summer in an unprecedented year for all of us in the Princeton community, I hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and well.

The coronavirus has disrupted our lives in ways we could have never expected. While we had initially hoped to bring freshmen, juniors and graduate students to campus for the fall, we ultimately made the difficult but necessary choice to conduct the semester for undergraduates fully remotely. We continue to act with an abundance of caution, based on government guidance and the best medical and scientific information available. Members of our team are working around the clock to implement plans designed to support our teaching and research mission while meeting the challenge of this pandemic together. In these pages, you can read about some of the ways our students, faculty and staff have been working with community partners to respond to the pandemic and help those in need in Princeton and Mercer County.

While difficult months lie ahead, continued collaboration and coordination between the University and the community will help us meet the challenge of this pandemic together. In these pages, you can read about some of the ways our students, faculty and staff have been working with community partners to respond to the pandemic and help those in need in Princeton and Mercer County.

Finally, I want to say thank you to everyone in Princeton and the surrounding region who has helped the University navigate these unprecedented times. We appreciate everything that elected officials, municipal staff, businesses, organizations and community volunteers have done to overcome the challenges of COVID-19, and we look forward to working with determination and hope to better times ahead. We are proud to call Princeton home, and we are proud to do our part.

Sincerely,
Christopher L. Eisgruber
President
Princeton University

Because of pandemic, Princeton undergraduate education will be fully remote this fall

Princeton University will conduct its undergraduate program remotely during the fall semester, President Christopher L. Eisgruber announced in a letter to the University community.

“In brief, the pandemic’s impact in New Jersey has led us to conclude that we cannot provide a genuinely meaningful on-campus experience for our undergraduate students this fall in a manner that is respectful of public health concerns and consistent with state regulations and guidance,” Eisgruber said Aug. 7.

The switch to fully remote instruction was a change from plans announced earlier in the summer that would have brought juniors and first-year undergraduates to campus for the fall.

Eisgruber noted then that University officials would continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and that plans might have to change if it worsens. Infections increased nationwide, and that presented two serious adverse consequences to Princeton's ability to provide undergraduates with a positive and safe experience on campus, he said.

“First, the health risks to the campus and surrounding populations appear greater now than they did just a month ago.... (Even if we successfully controlled on-campus spread of the disease, transmission rates might rise statewide or in our region. We might then have to send undergraduate students home again or impose exceptionally severe restrictions on their mobility and interaction with one another.”

The second factor was that the persistent spread of COVID-19 compelled New Jersey to preserve and augment restrictions that it expected to ease in its phased management of the pandemic. With spikes of infection occurring in other states, New Jersey had to pause its plan and impose new regulations.

“New Jersey’s careful approach has helped to keep the pandemic in check, but public health principles and state guidance still limit very substantially what we can do on campus. For example, they prevent or severely constrain our ability to provide several key elements of residential life, including indoor dining, student gatherings, and access to indoor common spaces and gyms,” Eisgruber said. “This combination of health concerns and restrictions will significantly diminish the educational value of the on campus experience. It will also render that experience confining and unpleasant for most students.”

While most undergraduates will attend classes virtually from home and other remote locations, the University will continue to accommodate on campus those students whose situations make it extremely difficult or impossible for them to return to or study from home. A limited number of students with exceptions recognizing their need to be on campus for senior thesis research or other work essential to their degree programs will also be permitted on campus.

Because of their different instructional and residential programs, Princeton's graduate students will be on campus.

“We continue to hope that we will be able to welcome undergraduate students back to campus in the spring,” Eisgruber said. “Please know that we are doing everything we can to make possible a residential semester in the spring.

“We know that our students very much wanted to be back on this campus,” Eisgruber said. “We very much wanted to have you here: you are the life of this place, and we miss you tremendously.”

Delivered: 180 school supply kits donated by University faculty and staff were dropped off on Aug. 12 to Princeton Human Services. Pictured are Emmanuel Jimenez, WB Mason (standing on back of truck); Erin Metro, Princeton University Community and Regional Affairs; Eric Gervais, WB Mason; and Melissa Urias, Princeton Human Services. (Photo by Denise Applewhite, Communications) See pages 2 and 3 for more stories about ways Princeton University is supporting the community.

Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications
University relief efforts: PPE donations, blood drives, volunteer opportunities

To address food insecurity this summer due to the pandemic, Princeton University’s Campus Dining, Office of Community and Regional Affairs, and the John H. Perry Center for Civic Engagement established the Summer Food and Nutrition Program. The initiative includes collaborations with the Princeton Public Schools and three area nonprofits, providing meals for at-risk families, children and individuals.

The program is running for six weeks through Aug. 16. It offers continuity of employment, including health benefits, to Campus Dining employees who normally work for nine months a year. This team procures, prepares and packages about 9,500 meals a week, distributed to an estimated 1,800-2,000 people in surrounding communities.

The University has longstanding relationships with the partner organizations: Princeton Public Schools, HomeFront, the Rescue Mission of Trenton, and Meals on Wheels of Mercer County. The community reach of these nonprofits includes children, families, veterans, homeless individuals and families, people living in shelter, living alone, and living at or below the poverty line.

The geographic reach spans Mercer County — including Princeton, the Route 1 corridor closest to Princeton, Trenton, Lawrence, East Windsor, West Windsor and Hightstown.

“The food we prepare will be serving toddlers at HomeFront to seniors in their 90s through Meals on Wheels,” said Smitha Haneef, assistant vice president of Campus Dining, University Services. “This is a highly diverse population in and around Princeton. As I have spoken to each community organization, it has been an extremely humbling experience that we are going to partner with them to serve people in need in the area with healthy, nutritious, freshly prepared meals. I also want to acknowledge the generosity of the University to launch this program.”

By the Numbers

Princeton University has been providing relief efforts to the local community in numerous ways since the beginning of the pandemic. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Donation of personal protective equipment.** The University has been identifying and delivering personal protection equipment — including gloves, masks, respirators, surgical gowns and other items — from labs and other sources on campus to support emergency services in Mercer County, the Municipality of Princeton and West Windsor Township.

- **Volunteering in the community.** Faculty and staff are offering their time as volunteers through the University’s Special Activities and Resources Group, which matches appropriate volunteers with relevant projects.

- **Blood drives.** In partnership with the American Red Cross, the University has held a series of community blood drives. In April and May, more than 200 people made donations over five days. The total collected was 219 productive units, which will provide for up to 657 hospital patients. A summer blood drive on July 7 collected 61 more productive units.

- **Addressing food insecurity.** In addition to the University’s $25,000 contribution to Send Hunger Packing Princeton (SHUPP) to support the nonprofit group’s collaboration with the Princeton Public Schools, the University donated 15 mini-refridges to the Princeton Public Schools and SHUPP to provide to families needing additional refrigeration for family meals being distributed. Campus Dining has donated a range of perishable and nonperishable food items — from liquid eggs to basmati rice and granola — to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen and Arm in Arm.

On behalf of the University, Ryan Carney (left), senior safety specialist, Emergency Health and Safety; James McQuaid (second from right), assistant director for occupational safety, Emergency Health and Safety; and Kristina Tucker, University police officer, Department of Public Safety, donated more than 3,000 PPE items including gloves, masks and N95 respirators to Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes (second from left) at Dempster Fire School, Lawrence, on June 23. The PPE equipment will support first responder and healthcare worker needs throughout Mercer County. (Photo by Denise Applewhite, Office of Communications)

Additional efforts through the Princeton University Relief Fund are in development and will be announced soon.

Community Calendar — art, spirit, music and a virtual tour — Stay Connected!

Summer is zooming by. Although no public events are scheduled on campus, there’s plenty of robust, engaging virtual programming to explore and experience.

The Princeton University Art Museum offers virtual tours, lectures and art classes through its website, artmuseum.princeton.edu. While the gift shop at the museum and the new retail branch at Palmer Square remain closed, you can visit and shop online at princetonmuseumstore.org.

Virtual religious services, music offerings and guided meditations are offered through the Office of Religious Life, religiouslife.princeton.edu/events.

Princeton University Concerts has an evolving list of free streaming resources at princetonuniversityconcerts.org. It also offers a virtual concert hall on Spotify as part of its Collaborative Listening Project.

Faculty-artist conversations and other special events can be attended virtually through the Lewis Center for the Arts, arts.princeton.edu/events.

You can also tour campus virtually in high definition from your computer, tablet or smartphone at www.youvisit.com/princeton. FitzRandolph Gate is open there 24/7!
From lab to ambulance, training pays off for Eric Mills, EMT volunteer

As a senior research specialist at a Princeton University lab that requires precision control over dust particles in the air, Eric Mills’ training gave him a special sort of insight as he confronts the coronavirus pandemic in a very different capacity.

Mills volunteers for the Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad, an independent, nonprofit 110 member group of emergency medical technicians serving the Princeton area.

Mills said his work in the lab taught him the value of personal protection. In the nanofabrication lab of the Princeton Institute for the Science and Technology of Materials, Mills and colleagues must follow rigorous protocols to build some of the world’s smallest devices and to protect themselves from dangerous chemicals.

Handwashing has been part of his routine for a long time, and he’s regularly kept from touching his face.

“The transition isn’t horrible. When you’re working with acids in a lab, you have to suppress those instincts, too,” he said.

Mills is one of numerous members of the Princeton community — mainly staff and students — who are volunteering for local rescue squads during these dangerous days of COVID-19.

They include Hifisa Chaudhry ‘22, As a neuroscience pre-med student, she said she was drawn toward EMT work.

“It’s not easy work, and you’re definitely exposed to myriad different situations — even more so with the current pandemic — but it is extremely rewarding as you’re able to aid individuals when they’re at their most vulnerable,” Chaudhry said.

Others who volunteer for the Princeton squad include Patrick Richichi, a senior tech support specialist at Princeton Engineering, who is deputy chief at the squad; as well as students Catherine Yu ‘21 and Nancy Tran ‘22, and Ares Alivisatos ‘21, who leads the undergraduate student volunteers there as cadet adviser.

Princeton University staff also volunteer for squads in nearby communities. They include

Brian Low-Beer, of Support Services at the Office of Information Technology, who volunteers at the Kendall Park First Aid & Rescue Squad, where he served as chief until recently. He is now treasurer. Michael Kervan, lead maintenance technician for special facilities at the Frick Lab, is an active member of the Cranbury First Aid Squad and is a rescue associate for the Princeton squad.

Cindy Orlandi, lead dispatcher at the University’s Department of Public Safety Communication Center, is a past captain of the Pennington First Aid Squad. She teaches first aid, EMT work, CPR, emergency medical dispatch, and basic communication officer certification, at multiple locations.

“It’s definitely different. It’s more challenging with this pandemic, and the protests and all that. But it’s still gratifying to know that you’re helping people,” Orlandi said.

Frank Setnicky, the Princeton First Aid & Rescue Squad’s chief, said he appreciates its partnership with the University.

Asked about Mills, he said: “Eric has been a great asset for us since he joined and with him being able to assist during the pandemic was a big help to allow us to shift personnel to fill gaps and stay on top of ever-changing guidelines for EMS.”

Around January, squad members began acknowledging the spread of COVID-19 and discussed how they would adapt. In February they began enhancing personal protection equipment and decontamination protocols, as well as how they interact with patients to minimize the chance of exposure. “We knew it was coming, we starting talking about it, we were adjusting,” Mills said.

In the middle of March, they started getting daily updates on the virus. Now, on every call, they wear an N95 mask, and put a surgical mask on the person they are treating.

“Asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic, we have no idea who’s a carrier,” he said. But if it’s a suspected COVID-19 case, or someone at a long-term care facility, they also wear goggles, gowns, gloves and booties.

Mills said he’s young and healthy, and if he gets sick, he’s ready to deal with the consequences, knowing that local hospitals have adequate capacity for treatment.

He plans to pursue a career in medicine, though he has not chosen a specialty yet. He expects to take the MCAT in September, and he is sending out medical school applications.

Small business relief fund supports local community organizations

The University has announced the second phase of the Princeton University Relief Fund (PURF) focusing on relief for small businesses in the Municipality of Princeton impacted by the pandemic.

PURF was established in April with a $1 million commitment to provide direct support to community organizations in the greater Princeton area that are working to alleviate economic distress related to COVID-19. The fund was designed to roll out in phases, as needs are identified. The first phase of disbursements, a $500,000 commitment, focused on support for community organizations addressing food and housing insecurity, reduced and lost income, child care, and behavioral and mental health needs.

The University is now making an initial contribution of $250,000 to the Princeton Small Business Resiliency Fund (PSBRF). This new program, launched June 25, was devised through the leadership of Mayor of Princeton Liz Lampert and Council Member Michelle Pirone Lambros in leadership of Mayor of Princeton Liz Lampert launched June 25, was devised through the leadership of Mayor of Princeton Liz Lampert and Council Member Michelle Pirone Lambros in

PSBRF intends to provide up to $5,000 per applicant to support needs caused by the pandemic. In order to qualify, the business must be for-profit and have a storefront in the Municipality of Princeton that is open to the general public; and must have been in business in since September 2019, with 25 or fewer employees and less than $2 million in gross annual revenue, or if a restaurant, up to $5 million.

Small businesses may use the PSBRF grants for a range of recovery activities including renovations to facilitate social distancing, adaptations to their website to promote business activity, cashless payment system expenses, deep cleaning supplies, PPE, emergency employee assistance with child care expenses and to defray marketing costs.

A committee of Chamber Foundation members and community leaders will facilitate the grant application process. The foundation has engaged Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC) to assist the committee in the evaluation and review of grant applications.

Small business relief fund supports local community organizations

The Princeton University Relief Fund will provide direct support to local community organizations that are working to alleviate economic distress related to COVID-19 among families, individuals and businesses. Pictured: Members of the Princeton Recreation Department pick up mini-fridges donated by Princeton University for the Princeton Public School District and Send Hunger Packing Princeton to provide to families in Princeton in need. (Photo by Erin Metro, Office of Community and Regional Affairs)
Construction update, Summer 2020

The collection of campus construction projects this summer are pieces of a larger puzzle that will continue over the next 10 years to support and enable the University to reach strategic goals set in 2016, as well as sustainability targets set in 2019. Summer 2020 construction projects happening above and below ground will lay the foundation, both literally and figuratively, for the University to achieve strategic goals such as expanding the undergraduate student body by 10%, building community, and shifting to a more sustainable production of energy.

When non-essential construction projects in NJ were ordered to cease on April 8, 2020, due to the coronavirus, projects for higher education facilities were allowed to continue. Working through new safety protocols, virtual permit applications and smaller on-site construction crews, Facilities staff have been working hard to keep our construction projects, and the corresponding strategic goals, on track. If you visit campus you may notice a few construction zones. Here’s a peek at what’s happening behind those fences.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

1 — Perelman College and Residential College 8 were the first of these projects to break ground. Perelman College will become Princeton’s seventh residential college. The construction of Perelman College will advance one of Princeton’s highest strategic priorities — the expansion of the undergraduate population by around 10%. An eighth residential college is being built adjacent to Perelman College, and will share some important features, such as dining areas and some common spaces. The extra capacity provided by that college will allow future renovations of existing dorms. The location for both colleges will be south of Poe Field, east of Elm Drive, and near the existing Butler, First (formerly Wilson) and Whitman colleges.

2 — The TIGER and Athletics Operations building will be a single-story structure combining both geo-exchange utility equipment and operations spaces to expand the University’s capacity to deliver thermal energy, as well as storage and operations space for Princeton Athletics. The project will include two Thermal Energy Storage (TES) tanks, two electrical transformers, and a natural gas generator. The TES tanks are used to store water that will be utilized to heat and cool campus. This is a key component of Princeton’s long-term commitment to carbon footprint reduction and overall sustainability. TIGER, along with hundreds of new underground geo-exchange bores and miles of new underground piping for hot water heat distribution, will support the University’s shift toward more sustainable production of energy and is a critical component in Princeton’s ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2046.

3 — The new East Garage will be constructed on part of the existing parking Lot 21. This new garage will accommodate parking from Lot 21 and the nearby parking lots along by Lane Western Way that are to be removed due to construction of facilities for environmental studies and the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Additionally, it will help meet future demand while supporting the University’s shift toward greater sustainability and transportation modes such as mass transit, carpooling, walking and cycling. Located near the intersection of Fitzrandolph Road and Faculty Road, the garage will provide approximately 1,560 parking spaces for faculty, staff, graduate commuters and visitors, including 32 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations (capable of charging 64 EV’s at one time). It will feature a transit hub that incorporates a TigerTransit stop, generous space for bike parking, and a pleasant and safe pedestrian environment. Robust tree-planting and landscaping will provide screening that respects the site’s natural setting.

4 — Roberts Stadium and Practice Field is moving to a new home near Jadwin Gym. The NCAA regulation-sized soccer field will feature a natural grass surface, support spaces, ticket office, concession area and press box. The project includes a practice field with artificial turf. The stadium and practice field both support campus sustainability goals by including geo-exchange wells and stormwater management under the facilities.

5 — Robertson Hall renovation will reconfigure the spaces to create a highly functional and efficient environment for teaching and research for the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (newly named). The project will create a space for a dynamic academic community, reflecting the values and aspirations of the school. Ultimately, the renovation of Robertson Hall will enhance its capacity to provide a new academic workplace strategy that fosters place-making, identity, mixing and collaboration.

6 — Within McCosh Hall, constructed in 1907, the lecture hall known as McCosh 50 seats 445. This popular teaching space exhibits much of the unique architectural character from the original building design. The classroom, however, is in need of functional, aesthetic and building system improvements. It is heavily used during the academic year and has been suffering from poor acoustics, an aging mechanically, substandard lighting, an obsolete A/V system, uncomfortable seating and an outdated HVAC system. Renovations will include improved visual, acoustical and environmental conditions, and a commitment to innovation, technology and new ideas while maintaining respect and resonance with the historic character of the building. Phase one of the project was completed in 2019 and phase two will be done in summer 2020.

Visit CONSTRUCTION.PRINCETON.EDU to find out more about our construction projects and the temporary impacts affecting campus.

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES

- Chiller Plant water re-use
- Energy-efficient HVAC system and controls
- Energy-efficient lighting and controls
- Energy STAR appliances
- EV charging stations
- Geo-exchange heating and cooling
- Green roof

High performance exteriors
LEED certification (TIGER)
Low-flow plumbing fixtures
ParkSmart certification
Stormwater management
Sustainable material selection

Cindy Suter, Facilities; all images supplied courtesy of Facilities