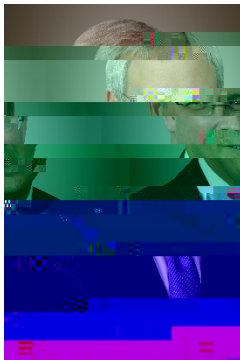


One thing of which I am certain: better days are ahead, and the university will be key to securing that brighter future. When science mitigates the impact of this novel virus, it will be because of the researchers at our universities. If it is nature that ultimately renders the virus more manageable, as it has with similar viruses, it will be our experts who help us understand why and help us apply that understanding to the next episode. When our economy roars back to life, it will be powered by the work of our graduates, and it will be those graduates who create whatever form that new economy takes. Most importantly, it will be our university communities who define what the post-pandemic society looks like; who document not just the biological aspects of the era but explore the sociological implications as well; who create and eventually interpret the historical artifacts; who help restore, reshape, and enrich the cultural milieu; who help us be a better people, a better nation, a better world, while delighting in commentary, debate, and argument about what that should mean.

Right now, our focus is on the immediate. Your physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing and that of our students, families, and communities should be paramount. As long as we remember that, we will emerge from this smarter and stronger.

Thank you. Stay well. God bless.



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