Dear UW-River Falls Students:

It is a unique and challenging time, but on behalf of all of our faculty and staff, I hope that you had a relaxing Spring Break at home and are ready to successfully complete the semester. We are doing our best to keep our campus and community safe and support you as you continue to pursue your education as a Falcon. Today, I am writing to share with you a few important updates and thoughts:

- Our faculty and instructional staff are doing their best to provide you with coursework and opportunities to learn through new alternative delivery methods. This is new to most of us and will take some getting used to, so please have patience and review these helpful resources as needed.

- Also on www.uwrf.edu/Remote, you can learn about many great ways to stay engaged, even as our community is separated by many miles. Virtual programs, social media campaigns and digital spaces are being created for you to stay connected. Be sure to follow UW-River Falls and your favorite campus offices on social media. Most importantly, never forget that we are still Falcons!

- We want you and others to stay well. Both Wisconsin and Minnesota have taken additional steps to slow the spread of COVID-19 and residents of both states are under strict orders to refrain from leaving their homes unless necessary. Not adhering to rules such as social distancing of six feet and avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people can result in fines.

- It is important to consider your health but also the health of others. If you travelled over Spring Break, if you believe you may have been exposed to anyone with the virus, or if you think you are ill, please self-quarantine for 14 days and seek medical advice if you are experiencing symptoms. Always follow the guidance issued by the CDC and other official local and state health agencies.

- Students living in UWRF residence halls this semester who are eligible for a prorated reimbursement of residence hall and dining fees have already been contacted. If you left belongings behind, please know that unless you are contacted, you will not be able to move out of the residence hall until we determine that it is safe to do so. We will keep you informed as plans evolve.

- And, some good news! I am pleased to share with you that the university will give those students expecting to graduate this spring the option of participating in either an on-campus commencement ceremony on August 8 or in the fall ceremony in December (conditions permitting, in both cases). More information will be sent from the Registrar’s Office.
Challenging times provide unique opportunities to bring out the best in all of us, and I know this will be the case for our Falcon community. Be safe, continue to learn, stay connected and know that all of us at UW-River Falls are thinking of you.

Best wishes for a good rest of your week.

Sincerely,

Dean Van Galen, Ph.D.
Chancellor
University of Wisconsin-River Falls