April 10, 2020

Dear Graduate Students,

I hope this note finds you and yours safe and well. It’s hard to believe that we are only weeks into this unprecedented health emergency, one that has touched every corner of our University and every aspect of our personal and professional lives. We understand that there are still a number of questions about how the current crisis will impact the policies and programs that support you and your fellow graduate students. Please know that the administration is actively working through these issues and that we will have more information to share shortly.

As we continue to navigate a changing world together and look for ways to settle into new norms and routines, we take comfort in those things that remain constants in our lives. For all of us at the Graduate School, one of those constants is our deep appreciation of all of you! In recognition of this National Graduate Student Appreciation Week, I want to personally express my heartfelt gratitude to all Princeton graduate students for the immeasurable contributions you make each and every day to the University’s scholarly and research mission, to the advancement of knowledge and discovery within your respective disciplines – and in service to the nation and indeed, to all humanity. Most of all, during these challenging times, I’d like to say thank you for the myriad ways you have enriched and strengthened the bonds of our graduate community and helped to support one another. You are at the very heart of what makes Princeton such a special place for us all!

The Student Life team at the Graduate School hosted several virtual programs and contests to celebrate Graduate Student Appreciation Week. We’re looking forward to announcing a few of the winners on Instagram today. Members of the Graduate School staff also composed this video message to share our sincere “grad”-itude for the graduate student community.

To promote continued online connection and community building, please review the following links for upcoming virtual programs and events:

- For personal and professional development, the GradFUTURES website includes dozens of virtual programs and events including Virtual Meetups featuring graduate alumni from a variety of fields sharing their professional stories and advice.

- The Student Life team continues to offer community building programming and support for 70+ graduate student organizations in their virtual programming initiatives. Virtual events are posted on the Graduate School events calendar and students can find the April events calendar here.

- The Access, Diversity and Inclusion team has several virtual community building programs on their events calendar.
Please also check out the virtual community building activities, workshops, and resources that the Graduate School and partner offices in Campus Life and throughout the University are offering for students: https://winter.princeton.edu/virtual. Check back each week as new activities are added.

Most importantly, please know that we are here to support you during these challenging times. You may contact the Student Life team at the Graduate School Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. via email or phone. After hours and weekends, you may contact the Dean-on-Call for urgent matters by calling the Department of Public Safety at 609-258-1000. Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) can be reached at (609) 258-3141, and virtual CPS counseling sessions are being offered as well.

In closing, thank you for continuing to comply with stay-at-home guidelines and for acting in socially responsible ways to protect the health and safety of others. For the most updated information and guidance regarding COVID-19, please visit https://www.princeton.edu/content/covid-19-coronavirus-information.

Wishing you and yours health, safety and resilience,

Sarah-Jane Leslie
Dean of the Graduate School