



PAUL QUINN COLLEGE

Office of the President

July 2020

Dear Quinnites:

I hope that you, your families, and loved ones are safe and doing well. I am writing you today to share with you the fall 2020 semester plans for the Quinnite Nation. As a result of the surging number of COVID-19 cases locally and nationally, the Board of Trustees and the administration have made the decision that **Paul Quinn College will only offer classes using an online instructional model for the fall 2020 semester.** At this time, no decision has been made regarding the course delivery method for the spring 2021 semester. Our goal is to make that determination in November.

Our decision to remain online for the fall was not one that was made hastily. Rather, we reached this conclusion after applying the following analytical model:

- (1) Prioritizing the health and safety of our community. We evaluated each of the available instructional options (in-person, hybrid, or online) from the standpoint of which one gave us the opportunity to protect the short and long-term health interests of our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and neighbors.
- (2) Gathering information from experts and institutional experience. Since March, members of the College's administration and staff have spent time serving on various COVID-19 related task forces; consulting with and listening to the opinions of the healthcare professionals at Parkland Hospital, Texas Health Resources, the University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas County, the City of Dallas, and the CDC; and operating our own COVID-19 testing site. These experiences produced an abundance of data that was uniquely available to us regarding the current number of cases and likely proliferation of the virus going forward.
- (3) Acknowledging human behavior. We employed a common-sense standard which gauged the likelihood of the College succeeding in creating an environment where we could both monitor and restrict student and staff behavior to the point that would be necessary in order to meet our goal of keeping everyone safe and healthy.

After conducting such analysis, we came to the overwhelming conclusion that to be consistent with our institutional and personal values, there was no path forward for the fall semester that included in-person classes and extra-curricular activities that would allow us to meet our duty of care for our students and staff. Simply put, it is too dangerous at this time to allow on-campus living, instruction, and engagement.

This decision means that there will be neither fall sports nor will we be holding a traditional Homecoming celebration (our plans for Homecoming will be discussed at a later date). We have visited with the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) regarding the Association's 10-term rule regarding athletic eligibility. The College will be requesting exceptions to this requirement for all of our athletes who are enrolled full-time this fall and spring. Based on our initial conversation and the fact that such exceptions were granted in the spring, we are very encouraged that our request will be received favorably. A decision on the winter and spring sports will be determined later.

As you have come to expect from your school, we are embracing innovation and advancement during this period of physical separation. Instead of lamenting what might be lost or the impossibility of change, we will be pursuing a very different course of action and focusing on what will be gained during this time of physical distance. Here is what we will be doing to improve your lives now and upon return to campus:

1. **Completing the Trammell S. Crow Living & Learning Center and our new Health & Wellness Center.** These two new state-of-the-art buildings will continue this era of physical transformation of the campus. The buildings are beautiful and provide an amazing sight as you enter the campus.
2. **Reducing the cost to attend the College.** We are reducing the cost of attendance this fall from an in-person cost of \$8,321 to **\$5,996** – a savings of \$2,325.
3. **Providing everyone access to technology.** Going forward, we will be providing Wi-Fi hotspots and laptops to every PQC student who is enrolled full-time and has the need.
4. **Introducing the Paul Quinn College Honors Program.** As part of our continued drive towards academic rigor that translates globally and professionally, the College is thrilled to announce the creation of its Honors Program. The Honors Program will be challenge-based. Classes will be interdisciplinary and focused on addressing the real-life issues associated with urban life. To create the beta test for this program, we have entered into a partnership with Minerva (<https://www.minerva.kgi.edu/> and <https://www.minervaproject.com/>), one of the leading and most innovative educational entities in the world.
5. **Implementing the Urban Scholars Program.** In addition to creating the Honors College together, we have entered into a second partnership with Minerva to establish the Urban Scholars Program. This accelerated, challenge-based program will reside in the Honors College, resulting in a permanent pathway to earlier degree completion, and will focus on criminal justice reform, healthcare, and the wealth gap.
6. **Presenting a new vision for online education.** The second partnership with Minerva will involve the adoption of their highly engaging online learning platform. Forty Quinnites will be selected for the beta test in the fall, with more joining the program in the years to come. Your advisor will contact you if you are one of the students selected to participate.

7. **Building a new website.** We are building a new website that will be completed in the first half of 2021. The new site will be far more interactive, intuitive, and just plain better than our current one.
8. **Unveiling PQCx.** PQCx is our new adult education certificate program. The program allows learners to earn highly sought-after credentials inexpensively and over a short period of time (three and six months).
9. **Restructuring Enrollment Management.** Going forward, we have established a goal of enrolling 350 new students per calendar year. To help us meet this goal, we have entered into partnership with EAB (<https://eab.com/colleges-and-universities/enrollment/>) and will be recruiting new members for our Enrollment Management team. Additionally, we have formed a partnership with the company Frank (<https://withfrank.org/how-to-pay-for-college/>) to help simplify the financial aid process.
10. **Creating the Quinnite Nation Esports Squad.** We have joined an HBCU Esports initiative and look forward to competing nationally against our sister schools in the near future. Please watch for our formal announcement soon.
11. **Upcoming surprise.** We are partnering with a K-12 education provider to bring a new educational offering to the campus for 2021.

Quinnites, we understand that this is a time of great uncertainty and unrest. However, as an institution, we have known uncertainty before, and the mistakes people make when facing difficult moments like these. This is why we feel confident in our plan and the choice we are offering you. This choice will define much of what your life will look like from this moment forward. You can continue to trust the process that we have established for you, maintain your enrollment for the fall, and be rewarded for doing so. Or, you can yield to the siren call of others who do not share our long-term vision of greatness for you, but certainly offer you the illusion of safety and short-term solutions. We hope that you will choose wisely.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions that you may have about this letter, our decision, and what happens next. I look forward to our next steps together.

Take care and be well,
President Sorrell