March 15, 2020

To: Students Only

RE: Stay Calm, Stay Focused

With the extended Spring Break, and millions of world citizens on lockdown or quarantined, I realize you are being asked to process a lot of disturbing news and information. To add to that stress, the uncertainty has the potential to produce greater anxiety and fears. Today, I would like to remind you of something critically important.

*Stay Calm, Stay Focused.* Absolutely, you must take care and be proactive with precautionary efforts, but also in your prayer efforts. In your peace of mind efforts. As you navigate and do your best to stay safe, please do not stop studying, researching, writing, and reading, because all class assignments will be posted to Schoology. This gives you something to truly focus on, eyes on the goals you wish to achieve. The work will keep us connected.

First, you are missed from the campus, from my being able to see you, pump fists, cheer you on at games and hear your laughter, your music, your vibrance. I love each one of you and see myself in you—the scholar, the athlete, the singer, the minister and future business owner. Second, never forget, we will get through this…*TOGETHER.* And come out on the other side, stronger, smarter, more creative, with renewed energy to finish what we started in 2020.

Sometime before March 30, senior leadership will decide on a return date to get you back on campus. If that is not possible, we will go to Plan B and share all the details. If you have questions, please reach out to administrators and instructors who can help guide you. Feel free to email me at PresidentSeamster@mail.com and I will respond with the same message: Stay Calm, Stay Focused.

I encourage all of you to do your best and not get behind on your work. These are not days off or extended fun time. This is a moment of deep reflection for our nation and our community. I am praying for my beautiful, talented, amazing Southwestern students, while sending you as much HOPE as your hearts can hold.

Dr. E. D. Seamster, Jr.
President and CEO