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## The Wake Forest Crisis Response Fund

1 message

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**Nathan O. Hatch** <returns@wfu.edu>  
Reply-To: giving@wfu.edu  
To: Tanya Zanish-Belcher <zanisht@wfu.edu>

Sat, Mar 28, 2020 at 9:41 AM



Dear Tanya,

Over the past few weeks, I have drawn great energy, strength and pride from the many ways the Wake Forest community has come together in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty members have transitioned to leading students remotely with dedication and creativity. Our staff have adapted to a new normal with a spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that transcends physical distancing. And above all, our students have shown a resilience that has been truly inspiring.

Like many of you, Wake Forest is confronting complex and difficult decisions. Keeping our community safe and protecting the integrity of our students' education remain our priorities. To do that, we have aggressively cut costs where we can. For example, we are implementing a hiring freeze and delaying progress on all capital projects. Ultimately, we are searching for every way we can preserve our greatest asset: the people who make us who we are.

Our most vulnerable students, staff and contract workers did not create the situations they find themselves in today, and because we are a community dedicated to one another, we must accept their challenges as our challenges.

I am grateful to those who proactively reached out to ask how they can help members of the Wake Forest community through this crisis. In answer to your call, we have established an umbrella fund to facilitate this generous spirit. Unlike other endowed or current use funds, the **Wake Forest Crisis Response Fund** is set up specifically to provide maximum flexibility by supporting those who need it most while offering the most efficient means of contribution for those who want to help. This fund will support needs such as, but not limited to:

- Assistance with food needs of students and campus employees at home
- Assistance with housing crises, including basic rent payments
- Support for international students who are unable to return to their home country
- Extra medical needs of students in self-isolation or quarantine
- Unbudgeted costs for safety equipment for on-campus employees in housing and food service
- Access to technology for remote instruction
- Student travel expenses to return home
- Continuing pay for those who are experiencing reduced hours of work

All donations to the **Wake Forest Crisis Response Fund** will directly support Wake Forest community members.

**Our initial goal is to raise \$500,000 for this urgent need. Julie and I are dedicated to helping our community and have made a gift of \$100,000 to aid our collective effort. We hope you will consider joining us in supporting fellow Wake Foresters in need.**

The University is doing all it can to alleviate the emotional and financial stress impacting members of our community, and I am motivated to work alongside you in making a difference. By rallying together right now, we can demonstrate our commitment to *Pro Humanitate*.

I hope you will continue to take care of yourselves and each other, and I am grateful for your support of Wake Forest.

With gratitude,

Nathan O. Hatch  
President

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