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## **A Message from President John R. Porter**

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# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN R. PORTER

March 27, 2020

As this week draws to a close, I think it is helpful to reflect on what has transpired. It is sometimes hard to believe that in a little under three weeks, we have gone from planning for the return of our students from Spring Break to this complete shift in the way we work, teach, and learn. We have made great strides in a short period of time. It is safe to say we have not seen circumstances like these in our lifetimes. In its nearly 200-year history, Lindenwood University has endured through the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and even a global pandemic.

In October of 1918, the state of Missouri quarantined the entire campus and its 287 students for three weeks during the influenza epidemic, which killed millions worldwide. Sixty of those students took ill, but none died, in part because of the actions taken on campus to contain the virus. We see that same spirit of cooperation and drive during the current crisis. We are wholly committed to doing everything we can to safeguard the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, as well as the surrounding community, and we are equally committed to providing the best instruction possible.

Even now, we still have a lot to celebrate. We recently received word that our online supply chain management and MBA programs for small business were ranked among the best in the country by different organizations, and one of our own, alumnus Pierre Desir of the NFL, donated 20,000 meals to a St. Louis-area food bank to help those in need. That is what Lions do—step up when times are hard.

We have shown what we can do when we work together, and as a community, we will get through this. I look forward to having our students, faculty, and staff back on campus—classrooms full, sports teams on the fields, performers on the stage, and students lounging in the swings on the quad.

For now, please be safe. We will see you soon. **#LionsUnited**

Sincerely,  
President John R. Porter