



A Message from President Carey to the Community

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In a recent remote meeting, I was given the opportunity to unveil plans for the future of Notre Dame de Namur University with community leaders and officials. This provided a way to dispel the widespread rumor that the university plans to close and to discuss the current plans on how NDNU intends to move forward. I would like to share this information:

- The University is not closed and does not plan to close this year.
- NDNU is still enrolling graduate and credential students for three high demand programs.
- Classes will continue to be online through spring 2021 due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, and until it is safe for students to return to campus.

The University made a commitment to provide an excellent education for our undergraduate and graduate students who are within one year of graduation. This will guarantee them the opportunity to receive their degree from our university in May 2021.

We have decided that recruitment of traditional freshman students with a mission of providing a residential college experience is no longer a viable pathway financially for NDNU.

NDNU is exploring transforming the University through a new mission with a primary focus on graduate and online education. This mission will require a much smaller physical footprint and many of the current facilities and parking on the campus would be available for potential partners to utilize.

Our transformed university will be built around three highly reputable graduate programs currently being offered on the campus. These include art therapy, clinical psychology, and education. Our goal is to add additional offerings going forward, including undergraduate degree completion programs.

Moving forward

Given the dire financial situation of the University, it is imperative that we explore options to bring in revenue through our facilities, including joint ventures.

The University has begun efforts to seek out partnerships with other education entities, corporations or businesses, or not-for-profit organizations whose missions match our own.

We will work with Belmont city officials and community leaders on any serious potential partners that may be candidates to join us on the campus.

A resource group made up of community leaders has been established to assist in seeking and evaluating opportunities for NDNU, and four new Board members have been appointed to bring new perspective to the current board with valuable experience and leadership skills.

Between now and May 2021, NDNU will be looking at as many options as possible for the use of the campus and assets, while evaluating viable structures where NDNU can maintain an ongoing presence on the Belmont Campus.

We want NDNU and our facilities to continue to serve an educational purpose, be an asset to the community, and honor the mission of the Sisters.

NDNU values the strong foundation and community relationships that exist thanks to our nearly 100 year presence in this community. Our mission and hallmarks remain the guideposts as we consider the choices for our future.

Dan Carey, PhD

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