



*Office of the President*  
**Dr. Antonio D. Tillis**

Dear UHD Community,

I hope all of you are doing well following last week's winter storm. The weather and power outages were the latest challenges faced by Houstonians and our own Gator Community. I know, however, that all of you are working hard to help our students overcome such obstacles to ensure they succeed.

I also recognize that everyone has responded admirably this semester as we moved all classes online. I know this was a change of plans for those teaching face-to-face, hybrid and online interactive courses, but your patience and professionalism are paying off for our students.



After a significant review of pandemic levels within the region, it has been determined that classes should remain online through March 14. An announcement will be made prior to Spring Break (scheduled March 15-19) regarding the plan for the balance of the semester.

Although classes continue online, UHD's campus will remain open with student-facing offices available to our Gators. All safety protocols (designated entrances, face coverings and distancing) will remain in place.

Please inform students that classes will continue online through March 14. Also, offer some words of encouragement to them. Many are still reeling from the recent frigid temperatures and loss of power and will need reassurance from our faculty and staff. I also encourage patience and flexibility with assignments and exams as they recover from last week's weather event.

We are approaching one year since the pandemic altered how we deliver courses and serve our students ... not to mention, affected every aspect of our lives. Your professionalism in the face of the pandemic and other challenges is certainly making the difference for our students at this time.

Thank you all for your hard work and for being there for our Gators. Their success is a result of the guidance provided by faculty and staff, and I know they too are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

Antonio D. Tillis, Ph.D.  
Interim President  
University of Houston-Downtown