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March 18, 2020

Dear KCAI Students, Parents, Faculty, and Staff --

I write to you today from my self-quarantine following recent travel to the United Kingdom. I am taking all the precautions necessary to keep myself and others healthy and safe. I share this with you because COVID-19 is affecting all of us, which means that we are all in this together. In addition to the regulations of the Department of Education and our accreditors, we have a responsibility to follow and abide by the CDC and local government guidelines in the interest of keeping our campus community safe from the rapid spread of the coronavirus – as well as our larger communities of family members, neighbours, and friends. This is our moral and legal obligation as citizens.

We are in close communication with our fellow professional schools of art and design, many of whom have followed KCAI's lead to work remotely. All the colleges we contacted have closed their studios and workshops. Our faculty are working diligently to deliver a high-quality online curriculum that will keep you earning credit hours towards your degree. As a "making college" the decision to close our facilities and move online was extremely difficult and brings additional challenges. We are sensitive to the ways that this will change your artistic practice in the short term. With studios closed, we are discussing partial refunds of studio fees, and we are exploring creative solutions such as open-access studios this summer for all students, should conditions improve.

We are actively discussing fair and creative solutions for students as they relate to KCAI's financial obligations and operations. Similarly, we are discussing the Barbara Marshall Residence Hall and how to safely accommodate students who rely on this housing, while also working with those students who are able to move home. It will take us a little bit of time to come up with solutions in the way that is most fair and that honours our students' diverse needs and circumstances. No simple single plan will work



for every student, so rest assured this, as well as open constant communication, is our top priority.

While each of us strives to understand and accept this “new normal,” it is paramount that civility and kindness prevail. I have read your emails and social media posts, and I know that some of you are very frustrated - and so are we. No-one has been in a situation like this. We are in constant communication and working to assess needs, maintain necessary operations, and determine next steps while complying with ever-evolving guidelines and restrictions from multiple sources. We will be communicating again soon with more specific information, but I ask you to understand this : the situation changes every day, so every plan is a work in progress.

Until then, be well and stay safe. I ask for your patience as we work through this pandemic –together.

Tony Jones ^{CBE}
The Nerman Family President

