Greetings,

As your interim-president, I felt that it was vital that I reach out to you personally regarding the current situation involving the coronavirus. In less than one week, the global coronavirus outbreak has evolved from one of general alerts and watchfulness to an escalating public health concern, including a few confirmed cases in Illinois. This particular virus seems to be presenting some new public health challenges, and we want to assure our students, faculty, and staff that precautionary measures are being taken to ensure the risk of infection remains low at Shawnee Community College. To that end, we want to remind everyone of the recommended preventative measures as suggested by the Illinois Department of Public Health:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

In the event of escalated risk of infection, a campus safety plan detailing reporting, attendance, and campus operations etc. will be made available to all students, faculty, and staff.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation during this time of heightened alert regarding the potential for infection.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Curphy
Interim-President of Shawnee Community College