



Dynamic Campus

WEBINAR

**FALL 2020:**

**HOW SMALLER, FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS ARE PREPARING**



## Roundtable Transcript

### Fall 2020: How smaller, faith-based institutions are preparing

#### Chip Hinton, Director of Admissions, University of Mary

Greetings everyone and welcome to Fall 2020: How Smaller, Faith-based Institutions are Preparing, presented by Dynamic Campus, the strategic technology partner for higher education since 2003. I'm Chip Hinton, Director of Admissions at the University of Mary. And I'll be leading today's round table discussion about how institutions like ours are planning to fulfill our institutional mission amidst the unique and somewhat unprecedented circumstances we're all facing as we head into the academic year.

To ensure you have a variety of perspectives, I'd like to welcome two additional leaders of higher education to today's panel. Dr. Michael Grandillo is the seventh president of Madonna University. Home to approximately 3,100 students in Livonia, Michigan, Dr. Grandillo just began his sixth year as Madonna's president having assumed the position on July 1st, 2015. Thank you for joining us today, Michael.

Dr. Francesco Cesareo has served as the president of Assumption University since July 1, 2007, helping to guide the former college to achieve university status just last month so congratulations to that. Assumption University supports approximately 2,400 students from its main campus in Worcester, Massachusetts.

We're going to cover as much ground as we can in our time together, but we know we won't get to everything you're interested in. So we set aside about 10 minutes or so at the end to answer your questions. You may also ask a question anytime during this webinar by typing it into your Q and A window on your screen. Let's dive right into our topics for today, shall we?

## What are your enrollment expectations for the fall and how are those projections impacting your decision-making process?

### Chip Hinton

First up, what are your enrollment expectations for the fall and how are those projections impacting your decision making process? And so I'm going to start with Dr. Michael Grandillo first for this question.

### Dr. Michael Grandillo, President, Madonna University

Thank you, Chip. And thank you everyone for putting this great program together. It's a pleasure to work with Dynamic Campus to bring this information to you. We're pretty excited about our enrollment. Enrollment is about in line with last year with about a 7% lag in registration, but we feel that the reason for that is that we have to do online personal one-on-one registrations. We cannot do group registrations. Although these [inaudible 00:06:35], everything looks very good. I'm very concerned until I see the whites of their eyes.

We do not know what the future will be with them coming to the campus, that they they're all registered and coming. But as everyone in this room and everybody across America in higher education, we're concerned about what the falloff would be. We'd be very happy with a 10% decrease from our projection, but we're concerned about residence life and athletics. Of course, that's 25% of our income. And if we are not able to have those programs, that could be a problem. But we're optimistic. Everything's on go. We're ready to go as normal. And we have a plan to do that.

### Chip Hinton

And so Francesco Cesareo, give us your perspective on this.

### Dr. Francesco Cesareo, President, Assumption University

Sure. So thank you, Chip, and thank you to Dynamic Campus for this program. We're very excited about our enrollment for the fall. It's 12% ahead of what we had anticipated it would be, one of our largest freshman class coming in. Obviously with the caveat, will they all show up in August when the time comes? The impact of having such a robust incoming class really is on how can we accommodate this class with all of the restrictions that are in place for higher education institutions in Massachusetts?

Because of the guidance that we receive from the Commonwealth, we know that it's going to be a challenge to be able to bring all of our students back. And so we're working on a plan that will only bring approximately half of our students back to campus in face-to-face instruction where the other half of our student body continuing to do remote learning so that we can comply with the guidance from the Commonwealth. But we are excited by the numbers and we hope that they will pan out in August.

### Chip Hinton

I certainly would echo certainly those same sentiments that I'm hearing and seeing here up in Bismarck, North Dakota with a bit of a proviso. One, I wasn't expecting for us to be back at the enrollment number that we had last year this time. I'm shocked by that. And just thinking in the environment that we're in, that we would not get back to that. I just thought there'd be some difference. The difference as well is the fact that we still are seeing a lot of people that are around in this region, around North Dakota, South Dakota, and so forth. But we're starting to find in the last couple of weeks that we have students

that are actually willing to come from other areas of the country. So that's certainly will have a challenge to how we move forward in terms of our thinking about the process and the other decisions surrounding that.

All right, let's take a look at the next question.

## **What is your institution doing to adhere to coronavirus best practices and still fulfill the mission of the institution?**

### **Chip Hinton**

So since I went with Dr. Grandillo first, I think it's only fair, Dr. Cesareo, that we hit you with this one first.

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

So the most important thing is, how are you going to provide the academic programming that our students need to continue making progress towards the degree and recognizing that we have to de-densify all of our classrooms whereby we can only accommodate about 50% of the student numbers in each classroom. So what are we going to do?

So we've decided to provide a hybrid model whereby some students will be face-to-face in the classroom. Others will be doing that same class remotely synchronously, and we'll be alternating days. So if you're in the classroom face-to-face one day, the next day you'll be doing it remote and those students who are not in the classroom will be doing face-to-face. So that's one aspect of it.

In terms of our ability to do synchronous learning, all of our faculty members are spending the summer redesigning all of their courses so that they can be offered both face-to-face and remotely simultaneously, so that students who decide that they don't want to come back to campus because we've given them that option. They can stay remote for the entire semester or those who are on campus but still having to do remote will have the benefit of the full array of a classroom experience. And the technology that we're utilizing is going to allow that to happen.

### **Chip Hinton**

That's great. And your comments, Michael?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Similar to Francesco: We're limiting the number of people in our classroom by state law. We hope that that number increases. Right now we can only have 10 people in a classroom. Because of that, we're doing a combination of hybrid and face-to-face. We're very dedicated to the face-to-face for our first year people so we're constructing the curriculum around that.

Secondly, we're making sure that we are able to accommodate people, both faculty, staff, and students. So we feel that we're going to have very vigorous testing also. So we're going to test all our athletes, all our residence life students, and faculty and staff, and selective commuters. We were able to find a test for around \$30 a test. And we've found that we could charge their insurance company if they can't afford that. So we're pretty vigilant in testing to make it a safe campus and try to get back to normal as quickly as possible.

## Chip Hinton

And that's absolutely what we're doing. Complying with the rules as handed down to us by the state, but then being very, very creative about allowing our students as much freedom as we possibly can. We're fortunate here because they're actually doing free testing at the state capitol. And so we're asking everyone who currently is on campus to take advantage of that and as we prepare for the students who will be here this fall.

All right. I think that that puts us at our next question, which it seems like Michael, it's going to be you first.

## So in the event remote instruction becomes necessary, how will you handle your hands on courses like health science, fine arts and those kinds of subjects?

## Chip Hinton

Michael, what are your thoughts on that?

## Dr. Michael Grandillo

We got permission from the governor to be able to have small lab classes. We're going to have to reduce those to five people and have intensive disinfection of those areas with masking and PPE. The fine arts we're working on doing smaller plays that are not face-to-face. They are more reader's theater type things. They're further apart, not singing face-to-face right now. And our art programs are going to continue in small classroom settings of 10 and less with social distancing.

So right now we've planned to keep those programs vibrant and strong unless anything else happens from the state. We're hoping that this 10 rule per classroom will be lifted. And we feel very confident that that'll be lifted very soon. And we're going to utilize outside classroom areas until November.

## Chip Hinton

That's smart. Francesco.

## Dr. Francesco Cesareo

Sure. And so if we're completely remote for our health sciences programs, our faculty members are developing virtual labs that students will be able to do remotely. And that's something they began to do last spring when we had to go to remote very quickly.

Now they're looking at some more opportunities where we can actually provide students with kits that they can then do the experiments as they observing the faculty member doing the experiment within the lab. So if we have to go totally remote, the virtual route with the virtual labs is what we're planning for.

In terms of fine arts, we've decided that we're not going to have any public performances at all in the fall semester because there's too many challenges with that, but we will still continue to offer fine arts classes and vocal classes. But it'll have to be done in an environment whereby students are social distanced. And if we are completely remote, our faculty are ready to continue to offer those classes through the use of special programming whereby students will be able to do remotely what they would

have done in a face-to-face environment. So we're ready to pivot to a total remote environment if necessary given the preparation that's been done.

### **Chip Hinton**

So it sounds like your solutions are similar to ours in the sense that we're relying certainly on our faculty to be able to do their lectures in a different way than they were normally in. Certainly if kids need to be used to be able to take care of that like you would the purchase of books individually and so forth.

If you don't mind, I'd like to step back to a point that was made earlier. Where did you find the \$30 test? A few folks are asking about that and kind of let's clear that up for just a minute. Where were you able to find a \$30 test?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

There's a lot of laboratories in Michigan right now. And then it started at \$100. We got one down to \$50 and this last one was at \$30. This is not the swab-up-the-nose test. This is a swab within the cheek. And the turnaround is we send it to a lab and they pick it up and they charge our insurance company, their insurance, or they charge them individually if they can't... If they don't have insurance, we would have to pick it up. Michigan does have a lot of laboratories doing that.

And the name's escaping me right now. We have a nursing program on campus and they're leading that. And we did not have a health center and we're standing one up right now in the meantime too. But I'll try to get the name to Dynamic Campus of the group.

### **Chip Hinton**

That'd be great. And is that a rapid turnaround test? How long would it take normally to get a result back?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Probably four hours. They'll pick it up and take it to a city about an hour and a half away, and then give us the results back electronically. Probably it's not applicable in other states because the big cost is the testing, after you take the test, the evaluation of the test, picking it up and bringing it back. But I will get the name of the place that does that for you all.

[The local organization is [Garcia Labs](#) in Jackson, Michigan]

### **Chip Hinton**

You said a couple of things I want to get back to as well. And so I really love the idea that you're going to, in Michigan by the way, teach outside until November. I'm not going to say "Burr," but that seems interesting to me. I know Michigan to be kind of as cold as it is up here in North Dakota, so...

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Well, let me say that I'm from Ohio only three hours south and I think that's a tropical climate compared to here. But here's what happens in Michigan. Our springs have been very cold and even up to May and June. And I won't say that Pope Francis is correct about the global warming in front of everybody, but I believe that something has changed, that the fall remains warm until late October and November. So we

have very cold springs and warmer falls right now. And so all our entertainment and all that stuff is done in the fall months is our best time for environment and the temperature here, so...

### **Chip Hinton**

As we know, being outside is an opportunity and under this coronavirus situation, so that's smart if you can get away with it.

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

And we're hoping to.

## **How has the role and importance of IT changed on your campus since March?**

### **Chip Hinton**

All right. Let's take a look at our next topic. How has the role and importance of IT changed on your campus since March? And how is that impacting your 2021 planning? So Francesco, I think I'm going to tee this one up for you.

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Sure. It's been absolutely essential to the way we reacted to the spring and how we're planning for the fall. The kind of technology that we needed, the kind of support that the faculty needed particularly in terms of instructional design, all of that was possible because of our relationship with Dynamic Campus.

If we didn't have that relationship, it would have been very difficult for us to continue the kind of education that we provided, because we would not have had the resources to do it on our own. So not only have we had the kind of software that we needed for different types of disciplines and different ways of teaching, but also the technology that we needed.

And as we planning for the next academic year, the type of technology that we're putting into our classrooms that allows a camera to follow a faculty member so that a student who might be studying remotely is still part of the class, and the students in the classroom can see those students, those students who are not in the classroom can see the students in the classroom, the faculty member can continue to engage as if everyone was in the classroom, that technology is really an important part of how we're planning to provide instruction going forward. So it's essential to any possibility of offering students the kind of education that we expect to provide them and they expect to receive from us.

### **Chip Hinton**

Michael?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

I know a lot of campuses across America had a lot of stress when they had to pivot quickly to online education. Some faculty members were not prepared, but more importantly, their IT staffs were not prepared. Luckily, we had Dynamic Campus here to make that pivot almost seamless. I don't know what I would have done if they weren't here. Our old team could not have handled this. And it would have been a very divisive and terrible situation. I'm very pleased that we're able to plan in the future to pivot again if we need to.

Let me give you an example. A lot of people have decided to start early in August and end at Thanksgiving. We are not doing that. We're going to have a traditional semester. One, because we have a vibrant summer school. Two, because we think it's the right thing to do. But more importantly, if we have to pivot, we know we can because the work Dynamic Campus and our IT staff has done.

### **Chip Hinton**

Oh. No question about that. I have to echo both of your comments in this sense. I know from working with our team, that I've gotten to know personally, because that's how important they are to us, it was really our Dynamic Campus team that brought to our attention to these needs that we were going to need to be aware of. And so we certainly are happy to have them here on our campus working with us, but also helping to guide us as we make decisions. And as we're looking at 2021, they're a part of that process. So how we move forward and go about our business is directly related to the information that we get every day from our Dynamic Campus team. And so they're as much a part of this university as any other area that we have. And we have learned to listen to their advice, their wise and sage advice, as they give it and not pick it apart first. But they've been terrific working with us. And they're a part of our team. So yes.

## **How are you ensuring the non-academic needs of students that will be met this year, given the volume of change and uncertainty?**

### **Chip Hinton**

The next topic is how are you ensuring the non-academic needs of students that will be met this year, given the volume, of course, of change and uncertainty? So Michael, let's have you kick that one off for us.

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Well, we're making sure everything we do could be seamless and put online if we need to. We've had activities online with our student activities group. Our Residence Life people are up to speed on making sure that the place is safe enough, that we could quarantine people when we need to, that we try to keep the vibrancy of the non-academic part of why people come to Madonna.

They come to Madonna to major in psychology, but they also want to play football. They come to Madonna to major in accounting, but they also want to be involved with religious life. They come to Madonna to be a nurse, but they also want to be in student senate. So we have to keep that second connect going. And we're doing that either virtually with the help of Dynamic Campus or in smaller groups. And hopefully that we can continue that vibrancy.

As I said earlier, we're interested and concerned about what's going to happen with athletics. We don't have complete control over that because our athletic association and our conferences do, but we're trying to keep that as normal as possible right now. And for example, we'll be streaming the games. If we can't have fans, we're going to make sure there are technology that we stream every game live on the internet. So some little things like that.

### **Chip Hinton**

That makes perfect sense. Somewhat mirroring what's going on in professional sports, it seems, in that regard. Francesco, your thoughts.

## **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Sure. So, one of the things that is very attractive to our students at Assumption is the sense of community and that's what they miss the most. And so we have been very conscious of maintaining the engagement with our students and the community amongst themselves throughout this period of time, even in the course of the summer. And we've been doing that through virtual activities, virtual engagement. We continue to live stream our daily mass and Sunday mass from our chapel, even though it's not open to the public right now, so that students can continue to cultivate their faith relationship. And this is all being planned by students remotely. And then we're the ones who are live streaming it.

In the residence halls, we're planning for activities within each residence hall by floor, because we're not going to allow students to go between floors or to go between residence halls when they return. So each RA is developing activities for those students who are in residence, but then for those students who would have been in residence, but are not going to be in residence, so they can continue to participate virtually in the activities of the residence hall that they would have been a part of.

So there's lots of co-curricular activities that are being developed by a co-curricular work group that they are piloting this summer and then we'll roll out for the whole student body once the fall semester begins, because it's very important for us to maintain that sense of connectedness amongst the students at Assumption, because it's one of the hallmarks and one of the concerns they have about the possibility of not being able to return in the fall.

## **Chip Hinton**

Right. And just to, again, sort of continue the conversation. Here at the University of Mary, we know that the students who are seeking to come here want that sense of community, as you were talking about before, Francesco. And the ones that are going to be here in person want to be able to at least participate in things like daily mass. So we're right now, as you talked about, testing, how to do that from a social distancing standpoint, and certainly adding additional times for students to be able to do daily mass. We're looking at the right way to have our wellness and fitness center available to them. And so that facility for us is largely separate from some of the things that our athletes would use.

So we've been able to separate and segment those so that people can still be able to use those. We will only allow a certain number of people in a particular time and then wipe them down as necessary so that students can still get some benefit of being a part of the community versus online. And so we take those things seriously.

Of course, we know libraries are not used in the same way that they were before, but those are still bastions of places for students to study and really our learning resource center. So we're taking a look at how we can allow students to be able to come in and utilize those areas from a social distancing standpoint, but still not let those beautiful spaces for study go to waste as well. So that certainly has been a challenge in terms of the non-academic things. So probably should take a look at the next topic.

## **How are your residence halls and dining plans changing to meet current guidelines and best practices?**

## **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

We use Sodexo as our vendor for dining. Luckily, they have a lot of time and expertise from a multinational, international company, but we're going to have to change the way we do business in the dining hall. It's unfortunate the salad bar is going away, that the buffet is going away, but we're going to do more special servings, special ordering, boxed lunches, old-fashioned like you do if you do it a la carte at your room service in your hotel. They're willing to do some of these types of things.

We have about 300, 400 people eating right now with staff being a 100. So we are good on our size. So because of our size and because we can social distance in the cafeteria, the dining hall, we think we could do well.

In the residence halls, we're treating them like a family. There's going to be single rooms and double rooms right now. Some parents are concerned about it. Some people want to live with people they know. So we're working on how we do residence life, if they have somebody from their high school coming or somebody close to them or a former student that they know. And so we're being a little more flexible about roommates. And we anticipate about 80% of our residents like to return as of now.

We have a quarantine area. And because if somebody does show symptoms, we're going to quickly quarantine them or ask them to go home if they're local enough, so I think there's a lot of deep thinking on all of this, a lot of details. That's the high level. The high level is they want to come back. We need the residence halls. We need to feed them well.

And on a personal level, my entertainment budget that I used to entertain faculty, staff and alumni and friends has been saved because I can't do anything at our residence, at the house right now. I can't do anything, but we're planning a big event, our welcome back party in the fall. We usually have a State of The University address and then a social. We're going to do that outside as we talked about earlier with social distancing and possibly a tent. So tents may be a big part of our life right now to keep the outside going as long as we can.

## **Chip Hinton**

I have to personally follow up on the fact that you mentioned that the salad bar is going away and the buffet. Those are my favorite foods to eat in the cafeteria, salad bar and buffet, so that certainly is going to represent a huge change. And so just wanted to say, as we're sort of in the middle of this particular topic, if you guys have questions that you'd like for us to answer, go ahead and add that to our Q&A box and we'll get to that. I don't want this conversation to just be us. I want to hear what your thoughts are, as well as, we move through.

Francesco, your thoughts on residence halls and dining plans as a change, since we're going through this particular process.

## **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Sure. So, since we have to densify our residence halls, typically we have about 90% of our students who live on campus. So, it's a large percentage of our students. And we know that we have to bring that down to about 60% at a maximum in order to meet the state guidelines. So, the first thing that we did was to send out a survey to all of our students, asking for volunteers to commute, asking if any of them wanted to be remote for the entire semester, and then asking them for their housing preferences,

recognizing that they may have to change housing based upon our ability to de-densify. So, there will be only doubles and singles, we will not have any triples or any quads across campus.

So, we're going to have to deal with roommate issues and we've already gotten students who've said, "Well, we want to live together, the three of us, and now we can't live together. How are we going to do that?" And so, we're trying to come up with creative ways to keep them in the same residence hall, even though they might not be able to be in the same room. So, that's what we're doing with our residence halls.

In terms of dining, again, we have the de-densify, we're going to have many different options for dining. In our dining hall, as Michael said, there won't be any buffet. There won't be any salad bar. It'll all be served meals, but students are going to have to reserve a time to go to the dining hall. So, you just can't go into the dining hall when you want to go into the dining hall, because we can't exceed 125 people in the dining hall at any one given time. So, students will have to reserve a time.

In addition, to having a regular sit down experience within the dining hall, we're going to have grab and go. So, students can order a meal and then they can go pick it up and bring it back to their residence halls. In what I would call our fast food dining area, which is in the student union, that will be closed except for grab and go. So, students will be able to order ahead of time and then they'll go and pick it up and bring it back to their residence halls or wherever they may want to eat.

So, there's going to be... It's the same thing for, as you mentioned earlier, your recreation center. Students are going to have to reserve a time to use the recreation center because of the de-densification requirements. So, they just can't go when they want to go. They're going to have to determine when to go and how long they can stay, that's going to be a set amount of time, to give as many people an opportunity as possible to use the facilities across campus. Same thing with library.

Even with the chapel, they have to sign up to go to mass because we can't have any more than 60 people in the chapel at any given time with the social distancing. So, we'll have to add masses, but they'll have to sign up in order to be able to go to mass or any of the other liturgical prayer opportunities in the course of the week.

So, it's going to be a very different experience for the students, because they're not going to be able to just come in and go at a whim. They're going to have to really plan and manage how are they going to use the facilities, how are they going to eat their meals in order for us to meet the guidelines of the Commonwealth.

### **Chip Hinton**

Oh, that makes sense. And so, Francesco, my question immediately is in terms of the signup, is this all digital? So, everybody will have equal access to it, they can go online and sign up. So that, when space is no longer available, it's just done digitally then?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Exactly. So, everyone on campus is going to have a mobile app. And the mobile app will be how they will make reservations, and that will allow them to see what times are open or what's not available. And that's the way in which we'll monitor both the reservation process and their ability to get the services that they need.

### **Chip Hinton**

It seems like in that particular way, that the student is very much still in control, because they're able to use that app to make a decision about where they will be. That's interesting. I want to go back in that same direction, as you were talking about the residential hall, and do you find that, especially due to the pandemic, you're finding more students who want a room by themselves versus having a roommate at all?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Actually, we have not found that, which I was surprised. We've actually found the opposite, where they want to continue to room with their friends and even we're hearing from parents in terms of, "Well, my son wants to room with his two other friends," or, "My daughter wants to room with her friend, are you going to be able to accommodate that?" So, I was anticipating more requests for single rooms, but thus far we have not seen that.

### **Chip Hinton**

I also want to underscore and highlight the fact that in your process, I love the fact that the student was allowed to fill out a survey and make some part of this according to what they like versus what the institution itself wanted them to do. So, they get a chance to participate in this process as well, which I think is terrific.

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Absolutely, yeah.

It's going to be interesting as we move forward, especially when it comes to those things that are so important to us, the residential halls and the food, but it sounds like there's some great ideas today represented. What are you doing to maximize the health and safety of your faculty, staff and students this Fall? And that's going to go back to you, Francesco. What are you doing in that regard?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

So, the first thing is robust testing. So, we are going to be testing everyone on campus twice a week, and the testing is being done by the Brode Institute. That's associated with Harvard and MIT, and they have a developed a consortium for all the colleges and universities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. And the test is a nasal swab test, and we are going to set up... We have a health center, but the health center will not be able to handle the volume because we're anticipating testing about 700 people a day, five days a week on campus. So, we're going to set up in one of our gym areas a testing center, that will be staffed by medical personnel and volunteers where they will test everyone on campus twice a week. And-

### **Chip Hinton**

And Francesco, sorry, I don't mean to interrupt, but I wanted to make this point. Is it mandatory that they test?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

It's mandatory.

## Chip Hinton

Okay, sorry about that. Go ahead.

## Dr. Francesco Cesareo

No, that's okay. So, that's where the app is going to come in, because every student and every employee will be given a designated time to go and get tested twice a week. And then, the Brode Institute will pick up the tests each day and we'll have results back within 24 hours. And if anyone tests positive, they will be isolated and then we'll follow up in terms of tracking. We'll also be doing contact tracing once someone is tested positive, and so that'll be done across campus. Each day, everyone on their mobile app will have to do symptom tracing. So, temperature check, and then all of the symptoms that are associated with the coronavirus, they'll have to check off. And if they check off one of the symptoms, they'll get a message that says if they're an employee, do not come to campus or if they're a student and they're living on campus, it will tell them not to go to their class but to go to the health center. When commuter students come onto campus at the entrance, at the gate house, they will also be screened for symptoms when they come up to campus.

So, that's what we're going to be doing in terms of the testing protocol. It's a very robust testing protocol, but we feel it's the only way in which we can try to mitigate risk. In addition to that, social distancing is going to be required, wearing of masks everywhere, except in your room in your residence hall. But when you leave your room, you have to be wearing a mask.

All students and employees are going to have to sign a commitment of adherence to all of the protocols and recognizing what their responsibility is, but also recognizing the risk of being on campus, so that they're aware. And parents will have to sign the same document for their student, so that they're aware. Because if they're sent home for violation of the protocols, we don't want parents to be surprised that we're sending them home. "Why is it happening?"

**[A copy of this form is attached to the end of the transcript, courtesy of Dr. Cesareo and Assumption University]**

We are basically locking down the campus. So, no guests will be allowed on campus in the course of the semester, except under very extreme, rare circumstances. And so, even families are not going to be able to come on campus to visit their sons and daughters in the course of the semester. So, we're doing the social distancing, the masks, we're doing the de-densification in the classrooms, we're putting up plexiglass in public spaces to protect the workers in the dining hall, for example, and the library and the recreation center. So, there's a lot of health and safety precautions that everyone will have to follow in order for them to return to campus in the Fall.

## Chip Hinton

Interesting. And so, as part of that return, Francesco, will parents or visitors be allowed to at least help move in? Because that's always a big deal here.

## Dr. Francesco Cesareo

Yeah. So, we're going to allow students to drop off their belongings two weeks before the actual move in. So, one parent can come on that day and then the actual move in day two parents can come that day.

### **Chip Hinton**

Oh, super. Michael, we have not forgotten you, though you've been a little quiet there. Tell us what's going on your campus in terms of health and safety procedure for the faculty, staff and students?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Well, similar very thing Francisco said. Our masks and our distancing and our plexiglass and we're doing that in the classroom. We probably have one of the more vigorous testing programs in Michigan planned, but not twice a week like that. But we would like to get to the point that we know that everybody's safe all the time through testing. So, we're going to test everybody in the residence halls, athletes and faculty and staff, and then start doing a systematic testing of all the remainders students. Again, it gets back to Dynamic Campus being able to help us electronically with the same situation, with apps and with electronic, with tracing. And that's all done by information technology that our IT department, Dynamic Campus, is setting up.

So, they have to fill out a form, like Francesco says, online saying they've been self-assessed. And then, if they have any symptoms, they're supposed to get tested immediately. We anticipate testing 3,000 people by the end of the year. After that, we may start increasing that, depending on the funding. We think that testing is probably the safest way to keep everybody safe. It's the most foolproof way. If they have it, they're isolated or they're sent home or they're quarantined. And then, two weeks later, they can get back to work, get back to student life if possible.

We're standing up a health center for the first time, so we think we're going to do about 100 to 200 a day during the regular semester. And at the beginning, we're going to do about 1,000 in the first week they come back to school, the 1,000 residents, students and athletes. We purchased those today and we're going to start logistically testing our plan.

### **Chip Hinton**

Who is responsible on your campuses for enforcing the wearing of the face mask and whatever protocol you guys have? Who's responsible for that?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

So, the message that we are putting out there is that this is a shared responsibility. We have to not be afraid to challenge people if they're not following the protocols, but then we have three COVID-19 administrators. One for faculty, one for staff, and one for students. And so, someone can report to any of those administrators if someone is not following the protocols that are in place, and then that individual will address the issue. So, it's a combination of the shared responsibility as well as individuals on campus who have been identified as being the point person for letting us know if protocols are not being followed.

### **Chip Hinton**

Okay. And Michael, on your campus, who enforces that people are wearing their mask as they need to and certainly the social distancing and those kinds of things?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Yeah. We hoped, as Francesco said, that we could do this with a shared responsibility and we don't have to be tough on people and have mask police all over the place. And we'd do it with just... That it

becomes a social norm at the institution. Having said that, we're going to challenge people and we're encouraging people to challenge people on their own and not just be reporting them. If they can't... A lot of them are afraid to say something to their peers. We hope that the faculty and staff in the classroom and in activities, I think, will be very clear and easy to do.

Walking down the hallway may be another issue. The rule in Michigan is a mask or six feet apart. So, we do have meetings where I sit at one end of a boardroom that usually sits 40 people, and the other person sits at the end of it. And we have a meeting and we come in separate doors. So, we asked each office to come up with their structure on how they sit, how many people in each room. And it's amazing when you look at the rooms you have on a college campus, you can change some rooms that were not utilized for this but can be utilized for that.

### **Chip Hinton**

Right. What do you do in the instance of your students who live on campus or maybe they go into town to shop or see people there and then come back? How are you able to manage through that particular process?

### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

That's something we're talking about and concerned about. The headline on all our stuff says, "You're not completely safe from the virus at Madonna University, as you are in the rest of the society," in so many words. We think that's important that we police each other and we're trying to limit the amount of off campus activity. I had a lot of rural schools I led in the past. That would be a lot easier, but we're in a big metro area. The airport is only 20 minutes away, and it's one of the best airports in the United States, but also the one that comes from internationally in the United States. So we're not going to be 100% safe, but I think we're going to be as close as possible.

### **Chip Hinton**

Exactly. And so I want to just get back to who's managing through that process. On our campus we use what's called an emergency task force, and this is the group that works with our State of North Dakota in terms of what the COVID-19 policies are and brings it back to the campus and makes sure that the guidelines are at least in place for us to be successful. Do you guys have task forces like that on your campus that do those kinds of things?

### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

Yeah, so we actually have several task forces, each of them looking at different aspects of the institution. And then it's the cabinet that is formulating the policies based on the work of these task forces. So the task forces feed into the cabinet. The cabinet is then finalizing the policies, and we have the most important of the work groups is the health protocol work group. And so the ones are coordinating with the state and with the guidelines of the state, and then making sure that we're all consistent across all of the different aspects of the life of the institution.

**How important is athletics to your institution and how are you addressing the impact of the coronavirus on those school sports?**

## Chip Hinton

Okay. The next topic. And that was a good one, but this one, I think you sort of alluded to this earlier in your comments. How important is athletics to your institution and how are you addressing the impact of the coronavirus on those school sports? Michael, if you'd kick this one off for us.

## Dr. Michael Grandillo

Yeah, we have 2,000 undergraduates. 700 of those undergraduates are active in a sport. We started football. It's our first inaugural year of football. Unfortunately, it's not going to be as big of a bang as we would like. We were expecting 3,000 people at the first game and a lot of pomp and circumstance around that. We're just hoping that we could [crosstalk] because we had two seasons of people that are on campus that have not played a game yet.

The non-contact sports, the track, cross-country, things like that seem to be okay. But we are really concerned about the future of athletics from the top to the bottom. When USC decides not to have face-to-face instruction, that means they're not going to be able to play football. And when the big guys don't do it, the small schools may be the trickling domino effect.

But we planned ahead. We're reducing the schedule. We have all kinds of protocols that the Athletic Training Association and that we're doing, that we're standing up to be safe. We're not sharing towels. We're not sharing water bottles, of course. We're getting rid of all kinds of protocols, no high fives, no shaking hands, none of that. So we're going ahead with it as of today, but as I see in the news every day, some conference or one school here or there is dropping athletics for the fall.

So we hope to hang on to that because quite frankly, if these students don't come back that play football or live in our residence halls, that's probably a \$3-5 million cut that these schools will have to make. When Vanderbilt gets rid of some of their athletic staff yesterday, when the rich schools do, and I call him rich because 95% of the schools are not rich in America. They live day-to-day on the goodness of the Sisters here, the donations of the parents that send their children here. That cannot continue. We have 700 employees. That's tough to do when you have each of these areas that could be vicariously quit in a day. So we're planning full go of sports. We have to do that. We have to say that, and hopefully it will come off.

## Chip Hinton

Exactly. Francesco.

## Dr. Francesco Cesareo

Yeah, athletics is an important enrollment strategy for us. About 30% of our student body are student athletes. And it really helps to expand our geographical reach, our gender diversity, our ethnic and racial diversity. I mean, it fulfills so many of our enrollment priorities for the institution. But as Michael said, there's many challenges with having, especially the high-risk sports like we have football or basketball or soccer, et cetera.

Our conference has not yet made a decision. We're in conversation, but what we are seeing at least here in Massachusetts, more and more schools are not going to have fall sports. And I think we're all waiting for the Ivy's to announce their decision, which is supposed to be today, and we think that that decision is going to end up being the driver for many institutions.

But we're seeing each day, at least here in New England, more and more schools saying no sports in the fall. And actually yesterday, the Commonwealth issued guidelines for athletics in general and indicated that the high-contact sports really should not be played this fall. So we have a big challenge ahead of us with that, and so we don't know what's going to happen yet. We've not made a decision.

### Chip Hinton

Here at the University of Mary, we are a part of the Northern Sun Collegiate International Conference. And as the director of university recruitment here on our campus, athletes are about 28% of what I'm expecting to have start this far, which is higher than normal, I must admit. And so it is critical, double underscore that, that we have fall sports that hopefully will lead to spring sports. So I am interested in hearing certainly anything that we need to do to make sure this happens.

Already, we are doing some things that I think are going to lead to a safer environment. One, as I mentioned to you before, in terms of the way the weight room, the strength and training facilities are laid out, separate for our students, our regular students and our athletes. And they again, have to come in at a specific time. And so there's a, let's call it an 8:00 in the morning to 9:30 split. And before anybody can come in, there's a half-hour where that whole facility can be wiped down to make sure that it's clean for the next group that would come in.

And that means you're going to have to have longer hours for the folks that are working and training then because you can't do a large group as you would have liked to have done. At the same time, we know that the link between athletics and recruitment is a simple one. The athletic team, the coaches, identify talent. And certainly because of their sport, they're highly motivated to come to school here, but it's the recruitment team's goal to bring them in through the funnel and take them through that particular process. And I'm referring to application to deposit to starting school.

And so we recently, fortunately, were cleared to be able to have visitors come back on campus this summer. That was tremendous to us, especially with the shutdown. And what surprised me the most was the eagerness of those folks, not just from our local areas, which they are always supportive of us, but the folks who would drive the five and six hours to come in for a visit. And right away, the first visitors were from those prospective students who were interested in athletics. So that certainly is something that was important to us.

## Question & Answer

### Chip Hinton

Let us go ahead then and answer any questions that you might have at this particular point. Let's see what we've got up here. I'm trying to make sure we've covered almost everything.

**How are your recruiting and admissions efforts changing for the class of '21, given the shift in standardized testing, travel, et cetera?**

### Chip Hinton

Right now, the North Dakota University system, which we are not a part of but we're using as their guidelines, has determined to waive the ACT and SAT scores. So it looks like we will be doing something very similar to that.

Right now, as we talked about visits, we are having visitors back on campus. That's a question that had come up. Right now, the visitors that we've seen have been largely athletics, but also we've seen our class of '21 prospective students coming in as well.

Interested about our daily campus visit procedure. It's sort of similar to what you guys heard before. From a recruitment standpoint, we're having everybody on staff that would come in contact with a visitor has to wear a mask and certainly keep their hands Purelled or washed. And then a visitor would have to do the same, but we're not requiring them at this point to wear a mask. Are you guys doing anything different than that?

#### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

We will be requiring visitors to wear masks when they come on campus. We haven't restarted the visit program yet because our campus is still closed as a system. We will begin visits on campus probably in about a week to 10 days, and it will be very highly personalized. So it will be one family at a time so that we don't have the mixing up in a large group of several different families. And a lot of the presentations will be outside under a tent, and then they'll go on a tour by family. But they will be required to wear a mask when they're on campus.

#### **Chip Hinton**

Okay. Michael, are you guys allowing visitors on campus?

#### **Dr. Michael Grandillo**

Yes, we started visitors a couple of weeks ago on a one-to-one basis. Masks and personalized tours, as the president said. Also, we're going to allow people to come on campus for other events right now, but we haven't decided on what that's going to take place. We're waiting for information from the state about outside gatherings for attendance at games. We're probably leaning towards not having attendance at games, or in social distancing, limit the number. The State of Michigan will decide that for us.

We're pretty much doing whatever the state says. We're doing no more, no less, maybe some more on testing, but we're going to adhere to allowing us to be a campus if we have to. We have to really, really be a campus, a community, as much as possible.

#### **Chip Hinton**

I think we have time for just one more question, and I think the last couple are related in some way too.

**How are you covering the cost of the things that we're needing for the coronavirus, the masks, the Purell, all of those types of precautions? How are you covering the cost associated with that?**

#### **Dr. Francesco Cesareo**

We're absorbing the cost for that. The trustees have allowed us to set aside about \$5 million from our endowment to cover the costs for everything we need to do to have the campus open.

### Chip Hinton

That's very generous, and thank you for sharing that. The number, I mean, some people would shy away from that. Dr. Grandillo?

### Dr. Michael Grandillo

We budgeted \$300,000 for the basic stuff, PPE and the changing of campus, the barriers and things like that. We've been testing. We'll be on top of that. We feel that we're going to absorb most of it and use some of that CARES money. I saved some of the CARES money. I haven't spent all it yet, but I think it's going to be costly. But I think we have a budget that we change daily. And I told the board of trustees that the budget's fluid. And we were able to save a \$100,000 on insurance last week by switching carriers. And normally that would be nice, but now that was a big celebration to find \$100,000. So we're looking at absorbing most of it and playing it day-by-day.

### Chip Hinton

Terrific. Guys, thank you. It looks like that's all the time we have today. I'd like to thank Dr. Cesareo and Dr. Grandillo for taking time out of their incredibly busy schedules to join me and share their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities we face as a new academic year fast approaches. Again, thank you both.

I'd also like to thank our host at Dynamic Campus for putting this webinar together. Dynamic Campus is the IT outsourcing partner for each of our institutions, and we can all agree they've been critical to the success of our institutions before and certainly during this pandemic. To find out more about them, visit [dynamiccampus.com](https://dynamiccampus.com).

Thanks for all of you for your time today. We hope it's been worthwhile. Wishing all of you a safe, healthy, and successful fall semester as we navigate these challenges together. Have a great afternoon.



**Assumption University - Community Promise**  
***Hounds Stronger Together***

As members of the Assumption University community, we all play an integral role in promoting the safety and health of the campus during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our success in repopulating campus is dependent on all of us – students, faculty and staff - consistently working to promote and maintain the health and safety of ourselves and each other.

Adhering to the Community Promise will not be easy, but to date everyone has demonstrated great resiliency in the face of unexpected adversity. It will require sacrifice and commitment. We'll have to adapt to new policies, protocols, and routines campus wide. For everyone's safety, we will have to remain dedicated to one another. Despite this unforeseen challenge, if we all do our part, *we will get through this together.*

**Quite simply, your signature below, is a promise to do your part to keep our community safe and healthy.**

**As a member of the Assumption University community, I promise to:**

- Have a baseline testing completed when available and report my results to the Health Center prior to or at arrival on campus.
- Comply with testing while on campus twice per week at Health Services
- Honestly participate in various health screening protocols (self-assessment, questioning, temperature checks, testing, etc.) on a daily basis.
- Physically distance from others at all times (at least six feet)
- Wear a mask in all common/public locations on campus or in any situation where I am unable to maintain six feet of physical distancing.
- Disinfect my living space at least once each day
- Practice good hygiene by washing hands thoroughly and frequently throughout the day
- Abide by all signage regarding entrances, exits, direction of travel, occupancy of common spaces, etc.
- Not bring guests, including family members, to campus until this restriction has been lifted by the University.
- Self-quarantine for 14 days if I have traveled to an area under the Commonwealth's quarantine order.
- Immediately report any symptoms I experience to Health Services within 12 hours of experiencing them
- Monitor and respond to emails, texts, and/or voicemails concerning anything related to COVID-19 or compliance with associated policies/protocols at least once each day
- Agree that should I have a health condition that precludes me from being on campus that I have communicated this fact to the health center.
- I agree to consult my primary care physician prior to my return to campus, and consider staying remote should I have a co-morbidity condition that makes me more susceptible to ill effects of COVID-19

- Understand that a student's emergency contact person/parent will be contacted for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19
- Encourage and remind fellow Hounds to follow any of the above. If you witness them not doing so, you can report any concerns by email at [stulife@assumption.edu](mailto:stulife@assumption.edu).

#### Additional Items for Residential Students:

- In accordance with state guidance, gatherings of more than 10 people regardless of location, not sponsored by the University, will not be permitted.
- Guests will not be allowed on campus (including parents, alumni, siblings, etc.).
- Students will not be able to host guests in their residence halls or apartments from outside of their residential hall or apartment area.
- Relocate to another residence hall/room if requested by Residential Life.
- Agree to return home should I test positive for COVID-19 for at least 14 days or until I test negative twice on a PCR test from your Primary Care Physician.
- Understand that should I need to return home for any reason outlined in this Community Promise or because I test positive for COVID - 19, I will not receive any pro-rated amount for room and board. Should the University need to evacuate the campus, residential students will receive a pro-rated room and board refund.

#### **Acknowledgement of Risk**

My signature below indicates my acknowledgment and understanding of the risks associated with being physically present on campus amongst other students, faculty, and staff, and/or living in a residence hall and/or apartment with others. These risks include, but are not limited to, exposure to possible viruses, germs and diseases.

#### **Release of Liability**

In consideration of allowing me to be on the Assumption University campus, I hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless Assumption University, its officers, Trustees, employees, faculty, agents, attorneys, successors and assigns, individually and in their representative capacities from any and all liability, claims, grievances, demands, and causes of action of any kind whatsoever which arise from my presence on the Assumption University Campus, except to the extent that the University engaged in willful or intentional misconduct or gross negligence.

I also acknowledge and understand that, should I test positive for COVID-19, this information may be communicated to individuals and departments on campus, as well as my legal guardian(s), to mitigate the spread of the virus and allow for contact tracing.

Students who violate any portion of the Community Promise may lose on campus privileges and will need to continue classes remotely. As we continue to monitor Massachusetts guidance, any amendments to the Community Promise will be communicated by email to all students, faculty and staff.

**I promise to abide by and comply with all policies above to insure the health and safety of myself and the Assumption University community.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_