

MEMO

To: STUDENTS – FACULTY OF EDUCATION
From: Prof Lloyd N Conley
Date: 25 August 2020
Re: WELCOME BACK – 2nd Semester 2020

Dear Education student

Yesterday marked the beginning of the **Second Semester 2020** and I want to wish you every success with your studies under these difficult circumstances.

We have all had to adjust to the conditions triggered by COVID-19 and I am amazed at how well both lecturers and students adapted to the remote learning mode. Many of our students had to function under very difficult conditions, however, the saying, "*Where there is a will there is a way*", became evident from the sacrifices made by these students in order to succeed. Some took advantage of the offers made by the NWU, whilst others utilised what little resources they had to successfully complete their assignments. It is for this reason that the Faculty of Education adopted the principle of "*No **DESERVING** student is left behind*".

The NWU put plans in place to ensure that *no deserving student is left behind* and made devices available, supplied students with data, printed hard copies of material and hosted a winter school for those who could not work online. This all contributed to the success of our students.

I am proud of staff and students who persevered and worked hard to achieve the desired outcomes. As we start the Second Semester we find ourselves at **Level 2 of lockdown** which permits **66%** of students to return to campus. This means that students who have laboratory and technical workshop sessions forming part of their courses may return. If you are required to attend practical work at campus and received an SMS in this regard, please do not decline the offer to return, even if you only return for the period of practical work. Furthermore, all Post-Graduate and Final Year students are included in this group returning. The Faculty of Education sent SMS's to students and, those who indicated that they have difficulty working from home, were included in the Level 2 re-integration plan. Unfortunately, we are still limited by the regulations and will not be able to accommodate more than 66%.

The Faculty strategy for **WIL (Work-Integrated Learning)** focusses on ALL students and will be implemented in this semester. The DHET (Department of higher Education & Training) made a concession for **final year BEd** students to spend **3 weeks** (as opposed to the mandatory 6 weeks), and **PGCE** students to spend **4 weeks** (as opposed to the mandatory 8 weeks) at schools. I need to emphasise that our priority is the safety of our students which means that there is a possibility that WIL might be rolled over to 2021. However, we are currently working on a number of options and Dr Elize Küng and her team will communicate directly with students in this regard. Our intention is to complete the Final Year students' WIL sessions in 2020, should we be able to implement our plans, without risking the health of our students. In addition to the time spent at schools (for Final Year students and all other students), supplementary online activities are planned.

We will continue with remote learning for the second semester, however, we hope to assist all students who have indicated that they need hard copies to return to campus so that they can participate in remote teaching. The Faculty will use **continuous assessment** for this semester. I wish you well and urge you to work hard so that you will be successful.

Please feel free to contact your lecturers, as they are committed to assisting you in achieving your goals. My humble request is that you respect that they also have personal lives and families to take care off.

Finally, the Management of the Faculty welcomes any legitimate queries and complaints. However, the Faculty has an official Grievance Procedure and you are required to adhere to the set procedure.

Finally I want to conclude with a Zambian proverb: “ *The worlds [actions] of elders do not lock all the doors; they leave the right door open*”. I want to add to our principle; “No Lecturer (Elder) will lock out a DESERVING student”.

All the best with your studies - **perseverance pays off.**

Kind regards

Prof Lloyd N Conley

Executive Dean: Faculty of Education

North-West University

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