

From: All Current UWRF Employees <ALL-EMPLOYEES@LISTS.UWRF.EDU> **On Behalf Of** UW-River Falls Chancellor

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:03 PM

To: ALL-EMPLOYEES@LISTS.UWRF.EDU

Subject: Chancellor message on response efforts

Dear Campus Community,

Amidst our demanding end of semester work and preparations for commencement, I want to take a moment to express my appreciation for the feedback you've shared regarding the difficult semester we have experienced.

Yesterday many of you participated in my open dialogue session and last night I had the opportunity to engage with the Student Government Association. These opportunities for open communication are so vital. I appreciate everyone's candor and the commitment to our mission that I heard expressed.

I urge you to continue sharing suggestions, questions and feedback. We are doing our best to prioritize and operationalize many critical actions, a few of which include: hiring an additional counselor in Student Health and Counseling; adding case management support for the Dean of Students' office; continuing to bring in grief counselors; and consulting with suicide prevention experts. Supportive resources, events and opportunities will continue to be updated on [Falcons Care](#).

Community partners, including the City of River Falls and the public health departments of St. Croix and Pierce counties, as well as our colleagues from the Universities of Wisconsin, have also continued to step forward, supporting our campus with expertise, resources and input.

Even as we wind down our semester, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), led by Joe Kmiech, with implementation efforts led by Laura King, will continue to be operational for the weeks ahead. There are several other actions that we need to consider in the mid- to long-term, such as developing a more robust mental health framework, creating peer support group opportunities for students and employees, and offering specific training to employees, in particular in areas like Residence Life as well as for instructors.

The EOC is also now liaising regularly with other campus leadership to communicate progress and gather additional input. If you have questions or ideas, please reach out to your shared governance group leadership or academic dean. Feel free also to email vcsase@uwrf.edu, an inbox currently being monitored by the EOC.

It has undoubtedly been a semester filled with unprecedented challenges; however, we are in this together. It is our collective strength and input that will empower us to overcome these difficult times.

With gratitude,
Maria



Maria Gallo, Ph.D.

Chancellor

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