

Franke, Gabriel

From: Dodge, Gail
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 7:43 PM
To: Dodge, Gail
Cc: Whitfield, Tiffany L.
Subject: College of Sciences Monday Matters: Thank You!

Dear Colleagues:

As Thanksgiving approaches I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your incredible hard work this semester. On top of the stress of staying safe during a pandemic, having kids at home, the election, and the renewed energy around social justice, we have had to deal with our regular job duties. Many of you are working extra hours, teaching more, putting classes online, and trying to help students succeed despite all their challenges. Others are dealing with new administrative procedures in an environment where many are working from home and it is harder to get things done. In addition we have the undeniable stress of not interacting in person with our coworkers. It is so much easier to avoid misunderstanding or frustration when we get to see our coworkers every day. We have to utilize technology in new ways to get our work done, and to communicate consistently.

The good news is that we are succeeding. I am proud of the way everyone in our college has stepped up to do what needs to be done. You have all shown a great deal of perseverance and flexibility, the result of which is that our students are learning, graduate students are defending and graduating, papers are getting published, and proposals are being funded. I know we are all worried about the success of our students this semester and next, and that is a very real problem that we will have to address in coming semesters. But for now I want to commend everyone's effort and commitment. Each of you has contributed in many ways to our success, and for that I want to express my gratitude.

On Thursday I will host the last of this semester's "brownbag" faculty and staff lunches (via zoom at 12:30, link in a separate email). I hope you will join me. I am eager to hear from you about how the College can support you and how we all can help our students.

Thank you!
Gail