

*Office of the President*



6 May 2020

Dear Helene Fuld Community,

Today is the beginning of Nurses Week. Perhaps for the first time in my career, nurses are now fully appreciated for what we bring to the health and welfare of our country – essential, lifesaving and compassionate care. Instead of the donuts or bagels that have so often been a token of appreciation for nurses from hospitals or colleagues, nurses are receiving nightly applause from our neighbors, and tributes from the media. Beautifully written articles have been published in the New Yorker and NY Times, to name just two, describing what nurses do and replacing the trash TV shows depicting nurses as bedmates or mindless subordinates of physicians. If only it had not taken a pandemic.

We are all involved in this epidemic in one way or another: caring for patients; replacing a patient's loved ones at end of life; educating our families and neighbors; engaging in self-care as we cannot help others unless we start with ourselves. Here at the College, we have been hard at work keeping our courses running, devising ways to keep our students on pace in their academic progress, converting all of our courses online, innovating strategies to maintain clinical training and ensuring our students graduate on time to take their licensing exam. Students and faculty have partnered to make the transition to a new way of learning as painless as possible. But there has been pain: postponed graduation, loneliness, anxiety and fear. So many of us have lost loved ones and friends.

Nurses Week is always a time for reflection for me. I remember my candy striper days when I was a teenager and how proud I was to receive a pink and white striped cap for doing a good job. I think of my prior jobs – most good, a couple bad. I remember so many of the cancer patients I cared for, and of the many students I helped educate over the years – a couple of whom are now faculty at the College! Today is the one-year anniversary of when I started working at Helene Fuld College of Nursing. Never have I been prouder to work with such phenomenal faculty and staff. Never have I been prouder of our inspiring and exceptional students. Never has our team been stronger. We have weathered some monumental changes to make the College what it is today – a 100% student-centered learning environment with exceptional learning resources to create the professional RN of the future. The Helene Fuld nurse is one of the best, and a nurse I would be proud to care for me, or my loved ones.

So, let's all reflect on how grateful we are for the good things in our lives – our health, our families, our colleagues at the College and elsewhere, our profession. This pandemic and its restrictions will end soon, and we will be back together again. We will get through this. Our students will graduate and become spectacular RNs. Our faculty and staff will weather the changes in our teaching technologies. We will have some awesome celebrations soon. Stay well, take care of yourselves, and Happy Nurses Week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce P. Griffin - Sobel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a hyphen between the last names.

Joyce P. Griffin-Sobel, Ph.D., RN, ANEF, FAAN

President & CEO