

*From the*  
**Office of the President**



Tuesday, November 17, 2020

To OU staff members,

Over the last eight months, you have responded remarkably to the shifting demands of health and safety guidelines prompted by the coronavirus pandemic. It is difficult to describe the full scope and impact of your timely and effective efforts, because none of us has ever been called to manage a challenge that has so pervasively altered our work and personal lives.

One thing that is clear, however, is the fact that each of you has demonstrated exactly what it means to be a conscientious, caring and valued education professional.

Please know that the University is immensely grateful for your hard work, your commendable perseverance and your deep commitment to serving our students and the broader community. Thanks to your contributions, we can confidently say we have kept a firm grip on the mission, vision and goals we have adopted.

To express our gratitude for the outstanding work you have done, we are providing you with three additional days of leave time over the holiday season. On Wednesday, November 25; Wednesday, December 23; and Monday, January 4, all staff members who are able to can take the days off as holiday/recess time.

Staff members who are not able to take these days off will be provided with equivalent flex time to be used with their supervisors' approval.

Also, those of you who acquired vacation time in excess of standard caps this summer will now have until June 30, 2021, to use that time.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope that you will take advantage of a well-deserved opportunity to rest, reflect and celebrate the joy and good fortune of family and dear friends. I also hope you will find ways to make this a wonderful holiday at the same time you take precautions to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Our battle with COVID-19 is not over. Nonetheless, we can take pride and reassurance in the fact that we have overcome considerable obstacles already. I have every confidence that, together, we will continue to exhibit the personal and professional qualities that have already made Oakland an exceptional academic community, and that will make us an even stronger one when this pandemic is behind us.

Thank you, and best wishes,

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President

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