Dear Student,

Congratulations on your decision to enroll at Ohio State Newark. On behalf of our faculty, staff, and current students, let me welcome you to our campus and our community!

I admit that these are not exactly the circumstances that I would have chosen for our first interactions. I have been teaching here for two decades and have seen roughly 2,000 students enrolled in my first-year American history survey classes. I do not know what all 2,000 of them are doing right now, but I do know that among them are teachers, writers, political activists, business leaders, and sadly, even some lawyers. This year will be a somewhat different experience for me, as I will be teaching that class on-line for the first time. Nevertheless, I hope to get to know many of the new students personally, just as I have gotten to know so many from the past, and I hope that two decades from now, I will be able to tell people what many of you are doing with your lives as well.

Honestly, those connections you make as a Buckeye—with friends, classmates, and even faculty—never really dissipate. It doesn’t matter if your class is on-line or in person, and it doesn’t matter if you are here to get a 4-year degree or if you are just passing through to take a few classes before you move on to other destinations, and it doesn’t even matter if you are from Michigan. The faculty members at the Newark campus are here because we believe that the central mission of the university is to support and develop the next generation of students. And I can speak for all of us when I say that whatever form this upcoming year should take, we will continue to provide that support and development.

I am honored to have been chosen to give the Convocation address to all first-year students on August 24. Convocation is a special event on our campus, when we officially welcome new first-year students to Ohio State Newark. I hope that you will mark your calendars and join us for that proud day. And welcome to Buckeye Nation!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mitchell Lerner
Professor of History