



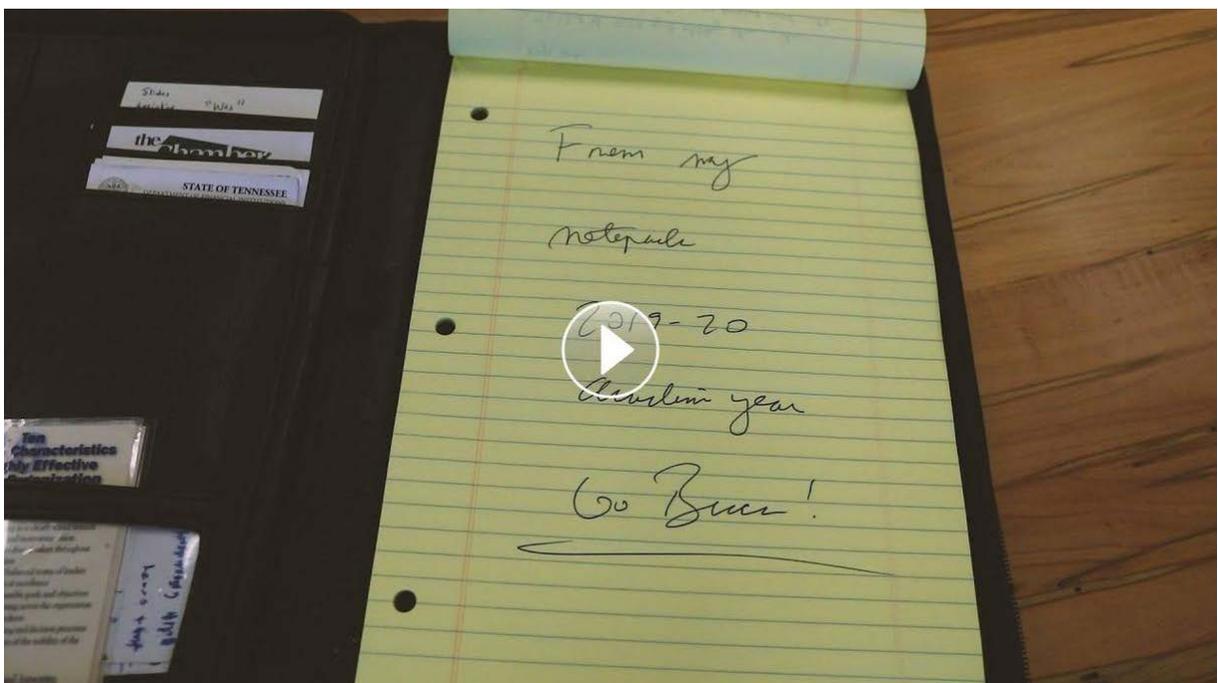
EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY



From **My Notepads**

March 25, 2020

VIDEO: A Message of Appreciation



Emotional Support for Students, Faculty and Staff

As we continue to operate in a new landscape and many of the traditions and routines that have been familiar to us have changed, some have expressed the need to speak with a mental health provider to discuss how this has impacted them. ETSU is committed to making resources available and to connect our community with those who can help. Please visit the links below for more information.

- Services available through the [ETSU Counseling Center](#) for students
- [Employee Assistance Program](#) for ETSU Faculty and Staff

Coronavirus Website Offers Information on Academic Support Services Available

Our ETSU [coronavirus website](#) has links to many helpful services and also includes major announcements regarding the institution's response to COVID-19 as well as changes in operations. These include:

- [D2L Resource Page](#) for Students
 - [ITS Help Desk](#)
 - [ITS Services for Remote Delivery of Instruction](#) for ETSU Faculty and Staff
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Bill Hemphill from the Department of Engineering, Engineering Technology and Surveying

CBAT Department Helps Produce Protective Face Shields for Health Care Workers

Our commitment to our mission to improve the lives of the people of this region is unwavering, even during these challenging times. Members of our faculty and staff and the community are working together to meet a critical need in our state. Last week, Gov. Bill Lee and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission requested assistance in meeting the increased demand for protective face shields for health care workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. The 3D-printed headband for the shield can take a long time to produce, so Dr. Keith Johnson and Bill Hemphill from the Department of Engineering, Engineering Technology and Surveying immediately went to work developing a new prototype that will be assembled by staff from Facilities Management. [Click here](#) to see how the face shields are being produced in what is typically a guitar-building lab.

Although students are completing course work remotely, they, too, are assisting with the design of the face shield and ways to produce them faster. ETSU is working closely with STREAMWORKS, an educational program powered by the Eastman Foundation that is producing 3D printed face shields. I applaud this partnership, which occurred with the assistance of Trustee David Golden. It is empowering to see people step up and be part of a bigger cause. I know that we will continue to hear of more examples like this in the days and weeks to come as members of the ETSU community use their talents to help others.

Message from Dr. Bill Block, Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Dean of Medicine

Greetings, faculty, students, and staff.

Over the past few weeks, ETSU leaders have had to make unprecedented decisions that have affected every individual and program at the university. In this time of upheaval and uncertainty, it is critical to remember that these changes can help save lives within our community – and far beyond it. The choices that all of us will make during the coming days are vital to flattening the curve and preventing community spread of COVID-19. Please keep in mind:

No one is immune. As we look at the breakdown of the 650+ cases in Tennessee (as of yesterday), about 30% of those were among the age 21-30 demographic; half of them were among persons ages 21-40. Young people are contracting this virus – and they can also spread it.

Stay home. Social distancing is important when we have to go out for essential services such as doctor’s visits, but it is not enough. Through the transition to online learning and remote work, the cancellation of events, and many other measures, the university is making it possible for us to not only practice social distancing, but to stay at home. I encourage everyone to do this! The more we can practice a “shelter-at-home” approach, the less likely we are to have widespread community disease.

It is not just a “big-city problem.” While some rely on the idea that because cities are more crowded, the virus is more likely to spread in those areas, we must remember that rural communities are susceptible and often have fewer testing and treatment resources than metropolitan areas. The problem looms in big and small communities alike.

Increasing numbers are inevitable. As we have been able to increase testing services, we are seeing – and will likely continue to see – a rise in cases in our community and throughout the country.

Right now, you might feel powerless in the face of COVID-19 and the changes it has brought. Please be encouraged: We still have power to curb the spread of this disease in our community. We are not yet facing the numbers and shortages of medical equipment that other areas are experiencing. The temptation is to not do anything because we have not yet seen widespread disease in our community. Resist this temptation. Stay home. Remain ETSU strong.

Be well,

Dr. Bill Block



