Greetings to the BAC community,

I’d like to make an important announcement regarding the BAC’s response to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The BAC leadership and members of the Emergency Management Team have been taking steps to keep our community safe. As you may know, Governor Charlie Baker has declared a State of Emergency in Massachusetts. As of my writing to you, there are no reported or known cases of COVID-19 associated with the College— the risk of spread within the BAC community remains low, however, individual efforts to take precautions for preventing the illness remain important.

In the interest of safeguarding the health and wellness of our community as well as members of the greater public who may be more vulnerable to this disease, the BAC leadership has made the decision to transition all in-person classes to online. It is important to note that the BAC remains open while shifting to another educational modality. As a pioneer in distance learning for design, we are uniquely positioned to offer our students continued excellence in education.

I have outlined the schedule below as we move from in-person classes to online:

- **Friday, March 13**, will be the last day of in-person classes at the BAC for Spring Semester 2020.
- **Monday, March 16 through Saturday, March 21** (Spring Break) will be an interim time to allow faculty and staff sufficient time to transition to online classes.
- **Monday, March 23 through Saturday, March 28** will provide additional time for the BAC to ensure each student has the resources needed to fulfill online educational requirements.
- **BAC classes will resume online beginning March 30.**
- All BAC funded, non-essential travel has been cancelled until further notice. As Governor Baker recommends, please limit personal travel—both internationally and domestically.
- Updates to BAC events and activities will be announced soon.
- The BAC campus will remain open only to full and part-time employees.
- Housing will continue to be available to current BAC students residing at Pine Manor College—the BAC will communicate with students if there are any
BAC students: I understand transitioning to online courses this semester will be a significant adjustment. Please plan accordingly and know that our staff and faculty are committed to ensuring a positive and fulfilling learning experience throughout the semester. Resources will be provided throughout the process to address individual needs. Details will follow over the next days.

Faculty: Please know that you have the BAC’s full support in making this transition, and I am confident that your innovation, creativity, and commitment to your students will get us through these challenging times. Thank you for quickly rising to the occasion by shifting the ways we teach.

Staff: We will rely on each of you in this time of transition to help us support our community which is teaching and learning in a new and different environment. I am thankful for your empathy, flexibility, and understanding.

BAC faculty or staff feeling sick should not come into work. I will be collaborating with the emergency management team to outline a work-from-home option for employees with underlying health issues, or who live in households with vulnerable people.

The entire BAC community will receive communications from me on a regular basis. I know we will work together and support each other as we create workable solutions during this challenging time.

If you have questions, please direct them to emergencymanagement@the-bac.edu or visit our COVID-19 UPDATE page. I also recommend following Twitter @TheBACBoston where you can find up-to-date and relevant information.

With much gratitude,
Mahesh Daas
President