

## **OKWU Implements Online Classes in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic** Reduces Risk of Coronavirus Exposure to OKWU Community

March 12, 2020, Bartlesville, OK – Oklahoma Wesleyan University is closely monitoring the pandemic of COVID-19 and following the directives of state and local health departments.

To implement a strategy of social distancing, all OKWU classes will be taught online starting March 30, 2020. This includes virtual instruction for traditional undergraduate, adult evening, and Adult and Graduate Studies.

Campus is not closed, and this decision does not affect or extend spring break, March 16-20. No members of the OKWU community have been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus. OKWU's administration continues to monitor the situation. The health and safety of all students, faculty, and staff remains the university's highest priority.

The week of March 23-27 will serve as a study week for students while curriculum is prepared for online instruction. The campus will remain open, including residence halls, food service, and university offices. Employees are advised to check with supervisors about options for remote work.

Reducing the risk of exposure for all members of the community is in the best interest of OKWU students and employees while still fulfilling the university's educational mission. Face-to-face classes will resume on April 14, 2020, if circumstances allow. Students who remain on campus should expect to receive instruction virtually.

"I ask students, faculty, staff, and alumni to join together in prayer over this continuing situation," President Jim Dunn said. "There are no easy or simple decisions, but the university remains ready to make the best decisions necessary to keep those in the OKWU community safe."

The university deeply laments the spread of COVID-19 and the loss of lives it has entailed, as well as the inconvenience that it has brought to students and employees. It lifts up in prayer all those whom this situation has affected.

Visit [www.okwu.edu/coronavirus](http://www.okwu.edu/coronavirus) for university updates.

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*Oklahoma Wesleyan University is a recognized educational leader in the state of Oklahoma and beyond. OKWU has received national recognition from U.S. News and World Report, Forbes.com, and CBSNews MoneyWatch both for its excellent academic reputation as well as its missional integrity. The university is a four-year, Christian university of the liberal arts and sciences that is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). OKWU also receives professional accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), and the International Assembly of Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). OKWU boasts national championship athletic programs in men's and women's basketball as well as baseball. Perhaps most important, OKWU is known for its bold and clear mission which emphasizes the Primacy of Jesus Christ, the Priority of Scripture, the Pursuit of Truth and the Practice of Wisdom.*