April 3, 2020

Fellow students,

We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We understand that it is not easy to adjust to the unique circumstances we find ourselves in, and we commend you for working together to persevere through this transition to remote learning.

The 2020 Census needs you. The Census is taken every ten years to count all inhabitants of the United States and helps determine where $600 billion in federal funds are distributed.

We know most of you are not living near your campuses right now, but the Census Bureau emphasizes the importance of counting yourselves at the place where you live and sleep most of the time. For many of us students, that means we should count ourselves at our campus-adjacent residences. The reason this is so important is that the Census determines funding for programs such as Pell Grants, nutrition assistance, mental health services, transportation, student wellness programs, agricultural and engineering education, and more!

It is important to note that if you live on campus or in fraternity or sorority houses, you do not need to complete the Census this year as you will be counted through a Census process called Group Quarters.

This is the first year that the Census has the option to be filled out online at my2020census.gov. You do not need to worry about having the Census ID that was mailed to you; you can click on the link that reads, "If you do not have a Census ID, click here" and then go from there! The Census is entirely confidential.

To learn more, watch this video: https://youtu.be/B4Ee8ol_LxY

We thank you for your cooperation during this extraordinary time. Every person counts, and that includes YOU! We encourage you to count yourself in the 2020 Census. It will ensure a brighter future for the Penn Staters of today and beyond.

For the Glory,

Claire Kelling, President, The Graduate & Professional Student Association
Kenneth Gatten III, President, The Council of Commonwealth Student Governments
Laura McKinney, President, The University Park Undergraduate Association