



# THE Fence Post

NEWS FOR CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY FAMILIES

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

Greetings,

As we near the conclusion of fall semester, our Carnegie Mellon students continue to impress me every day. Whether studying in Pittsburgh or elsewhere, our students are adaptive and resilient, creative and innovative, and making the most of the university's resources and their CMU experience.

You've heard from the university often this semester, and we will continue to share COVID-19 updates with family members during the winter break and throughout the spring semester when necessary. In addition to updates about university operations, this edition of the family newsletter addresses some of the questions and topics that are most important to our students and families at this time — including content on academic support, career planning in a pandemic, suggestions from our student leaders on how to stay connected during a time of physical distancing, and a reminder about support available through the CARES Act Relief Fund and CMU's Tartan Emergency Support Fund. We hope you find these articles helpful and relevant as we close this fall semester.

I hope that you and your student are able to enjoy some time together in-person or virtually during the upcoming winter break and that you all stay healthy and safe.

Warmly,

Julie Schultz  
Associate Dean of Family Engagement

## FEATURES



## What's Next Academically?

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Learn about some of the academic experiences that first-year students are starting to prepare for as the semester winds down, as well as advice for parents and family members about how you can support them.

[Read More](#)



## Building Community in a Physically Distanced World

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A pair of 2020 Head Orientation Counselors share some positive ways that they have handled the isolation that may accompany physical distancing and studying remotely.

[Read More](#)



## It's Never Too Early to Begin the Career Exploration Process

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Carnegie Mellon's Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) offers many virtual resources specifically for first-year students to assist with early career preparation.

[Read More](#)

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

**CARES & TEF Funding Still Available**

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Carnegie Mellon recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to create financial hardships for many of our students and families. Dedicated financial resources from the [federal CARES Act Relief Fund and CMU's Tartan Emergency Support Fund](#) are still available for undergraduate and graduate students.

## Missing campus?

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So was CMU College of Engineering student Jared Cohen. Stuck at home at the beginning of the pandemic, Cohen and friends utilized some of the quarantine time to [recreate the CMU campus in Minecraft](#) — block by block.

## We're All In.

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Tartans everywhere — on and off campus — are doing their part by practicing COVID-19 mitigation protocols. By monitoring for symptoms daily, staying six feet apart, wearing facial coverings and washing our hands, we're all in, all the time. [Learn why some CMU students are all in.](#)

## Life at CMU

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Carnegie Mellon's Life at CMU Instagram account shares unique stories about our students — who they are, what they care about, what they do and so much more. [Follow us](#) to learn about how each and every Tartan contributes to and shapes our CMU community.

## CMU NEWS

[Program Aims to Enhance Inclusive Teaching](#)

[Using Machine Learning to Feed Families in Need](#)

[Giving CMU Day Raises Record \\$1.5 Million](#)

## UPCOMING DATES

- December 11: Last Day of Classes
- December 14-20: [Final Exams](#)
- January 23-31: [Spring Residence Hall Move-In](#)
- January 23-February 13: [Winter Welcome programs](#)
- February 1: First Day of Spring Semester
- February 1-7: All classes offered remotely
- February 8: In-person classes begin

For additional important dates, explore the full [CMU calendar of events](#) and the revised [Spring 2021 academic calendar](#). Due to COVID-19, the university has replaced the traditional spring break week with break days on February 23, March 19 and April 5.

## RESOURCE QUICKLINKS

Visit the [Family and Parents website](#) for resources available to you and your student in the areas of [academics](#), [health and wellness](#), [finances](#), [safety](#) and [student affairs](#). You can also access [past issues of The Fence Post](#) on the site.

[Family & Parents Website](#) | [Give Now](#)

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