

Stetson Community:

Many of you have heard that **predictions for the hurricane season this year have increased the number of storms expected**. As a result, we are writing with important information pertaining to the University's approach to hurricanes. We strongly believe that one of the most important aspects of preparation is to communicate clearly and frequently, and we are committed to doing so.

In the event of a hurricane, you should know we have an Emergency Management Team comprised of key individuals on campus to help make and implement decisions regarding the potential cancellation of classes or a shift to a virtual format, campus closure, and evacuation of residence halls. **Our highest priority is always your safety.**

Classes

One of the first decisions we will make is whether to cancel classes or move them to a virtual format whenever necessary. **We may begin by moving classes to virtual and then may cancel them at some point due to power outages and other factors.** Most importantly, we will communicate this plan as far ahead of a predicted storm as practically possible, without making a premature decision. We will do our best to make decisions in a timely fashion with the best information we have at that time. We understand that conditions may prevent some faculty and students from engaging in virtual teaching and learning, and we also understand that some course learning outcomes cannot be met in a virtual environment. If classes shift to a virtual format, students should expect more information from their faculty about how classes may continue online.

Campus Closure

In some circumstances classes may be cancelled or moved to a virtual format, but the campus will not be closed immediately. **When a campus closure does occur, only emergency personnel remain on campus (Public Safety, Facilities, Dining, some members of the Emergency Management Team, etc.).** Hurricanes with anticipated winds exceeding 100 mph will likely result in evacuation, as described below.

- **For Residential Students:** We do at times have a campus closure and allow residential students to remain on campus. However, campus services will be limited, and most buildings will be closed. Residential students in assignments with mechanical key entry into their apartment (Stetson Oaks, Stetson Palms, Stetson Cove, University Hall, and UVAs) will be permitted to shelter in place throughout the storm. Residential students with an electronic entry into the building (All residence halls not mentioned above) will shelter in the Carlton Union Building (CUB) or Lynn Business Center (LBC) because in a power outage it will not be possible to reenter the residence hall. Because the CUB and LBC have generators, they will continue to have power even during an outage. Please keep this information in mind if you choose to remain on campus.
 - **Residential students will be required to complete a What's Your Hurricane Plan Form in Housing Central regardless of whether you remain or leave your residential assignment.**

Evacuation

In the event of a campus evacuation, all students, faculty, and staff must leave campus. While we do not want to evacuate campus, our buildings are not hurricane-proof and cannot serve as shelters. Thus, when winds are predicted above 100 mph, we will strongly consider an evacuation. **If an evacuation is announced, everyone—with no exceptions—must depart campus.**

If we evacuate campus:

- We will send emergency personnel home until the storm subsides, so it is critical that we have your full cooperation and that you evacuate promptly.
- Our goal will be to give several days of notice before an evacuation will take place, especially so that all members of our community will have adequate time to make and implement plans. **However, it is very important you make plans today for where you will go should you need to evacuate.**
- There are many emergency shelters that will open in the event of a hurricane. For updated local emergency management information, click here: <https://www.volusia.org/services/emergency-services/emergency-management/get-prepared/shelter-information.shtml>.
- We encourage you to stay informed of the storm's path and plan accordingly.

Accessibility & Home Insecurity

Students residing on campus will receive additional information from Residential Living & Learning regarding the safety and protocol we will follow if we allow students to remain on campus or if we evacuate. Included in this information will be instructions for how we will support students who have accessibility or home insecurity needs. The University and WORLD: The Rinker Center for International Learning will work closely with our international students to ensure everyone has a plan.

Communication

Once again, we are committed to communicating early and often as we receive information about impending storms. As we get closer to decisions about cancelling classes, closing campus, or evacuation, we will inform you when the next update will be made available.

- **Messages will be sent via your Stetson e-mail account. It is critical that you consistently check your e-mail, as that will be our primary vehicle for communication leading up to a potential storm.**
- We will post regular updates on our main website, www.stetson.edu. In the event of a campus closure or evacuation, we will shift to regular updates on our website.
- **We will be tracking all storms using the National Hurricane Center (NHC) as our guide. For your convenience, here is their website <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.** We understand there are many information sources and reports that will circulate as storms enter our area, but we will use the NHC to guide our decision-making.

As we have already said, your safety is our primary concern. We realize these decisions are complex and often involve inconveniencing the community. Our goal is to track the impending storms, determine the potential campus impact, if any, and share information as soon as practical. We believe this approach

will allow members of our community ample time to evacuate safely if needed. Our goal is to make the right decision 100% of the time, and while this may not be possible, your safety is always our top priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Roellke, President

Dr. Elizabeth Skomp, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. John P. Downey, Vice President for CLaSS