



**Andrew T. Hsu, Ph.D.**  
**President**

March 31, 2020

Dear Community Partner:

On March 19, the College of Charleston announced that it would hold classes online through the end of the semester based on the most recent developments of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In an effort to slow down its transmission and protect the campus community, the College closed its residence halls on March 23 and has granted limited authorized access to a small number of students who demonstrated extenuating circumstances that prohibited them from leaving campus. Over the next week, the College's staff will be processing pro-rated refunds for housing fees to all residential students, except those who were granted an exception to stay on campus.

Numerous parents of students who live off campus in privately owned student housing units and the affected students themselves have contacted the College to express their concerns regarding the requirement that they continue paying rent during this period. We recognize that you, too, must mitigate the financial implications of this pandemic; however, we request that you consider providing rent abatements or a payment option that will reduce the burden on families and students during this difficult time.

If you have developed a plan to address this matter, I ask that you share the details of the plan with the College's Office of Campus Housing by emailing [housing@cofc.edu](mailto:housing@cofc.edu). This information will be used to provide accurate information to students and families who contact the College regarding their off-campus lease and rent payment requirements.

These are indeed challenging times, and we appreciate all you do to support our students.

Sincerely,

Andrew