March 23, 2020

To all graduate students in the CSM.

I know that this is a very confusing time. The Graduate Science Education office, the Research Institutes and Academic Departments are all here to help you through this new reality. I have attached guidelines that were circulated to all supervisors about supporting students who are working from home. You should only be coming into the lab under exceptional circumstances. You should be working from home and you should not feel pressured to come to the University. If you are feeling pressure, please reach out to either myself or your Graduate Program Director.

I would encourage you to use this time to be creative in your academic work….Start writing your research proposal, plan future experiments, work on scholarship applications, or write a manuscript or review article.

I would also stress the importance of communicating with your supervisor and setting realistic expectations. Please also reach out to your fellow students, lab-mates and friends.

Working from home does not have to be isolating. You can make it fun with novel ways to interact with your research group. Zoom is a great videoconferencing tool that you can use to stay connected.

We have also made contingencies for all field of study exams and thesis defenses occurring between now and August 31, 2020. Please consult the GSE website for details. We are committed to ensuring students are able to meet these milestones.

If any of you are feeling overwhelmed, please reach out to your Graduate Program Administrator, Graduate Program Director, Institute Education Lead, the FGS student team or myself. Your mental health and wellness are of critical importance and we would like to support you in any way we can.

Once students are back on campus, we are committed to work with you to ensure continued success in your program.

Please stay healthy, both mentally and physically.

Sincerely
Tara Beattie, PhD
Associate Dean – Graduate Science Education
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Sent on behalf of the GSE office, Graduate Program Directors and Institute Education Leads.