

April 14, 2020

A Special Message from:

Dean Yannis C. Yortsos



USC Viterbi
School of Engineering

A message from Dean Yortsos to members of our USC Viterbi Trojan Family:

I hope you and your family are safe and well. We continue to adapt to this new environment and to further our mission for exceptional student education and research under unusual circumstances. Our faculty, students and staff have adjusted remarkably well and are creating innovative ways to enrich our lives and work.

This crisis offers us the opportunity for re-invention. It is in times of exponential change where innovation and re-invention are more relevant than ever before; today's exponential challenges and disruption demand the same, but more urgently and in unexpected dimensions.

As a result of the COVID-19 shutdown, USC Viterbi students are currently engaged in online learning in homes across the United States and around the world. Our faculty are pivoting to online offerings and doing research from home, although essential research on campus also proceeds for COVID-19 related projects. We invite you to join us in our mission to *engineer a better world for all humanity*, a vision more apt today than ever before.

How can you help?

1. **Join the fight to produce PPE for healthcare workers:** A number of USC Viterbi labs have stayed open to create critical PPE. We call on our USC Viterbi Family to share their expertise and energy, as we take on this unprecedented challenge together. Use your equipment at home, source materials or volunteer your time: [join us](#).
2. **Trojans hire Trojans:** The class of 2020 is weeks away from graduation and is entering a challenging job market. As your companies move forward from this crisis, remember to post your positions with [USC Viterbi Career Services](#) and/or schedule a consultation with vcareers@usc.edu to strategically partner with USC Viterbi in ways that are mutually beneficial.
3. **Mentor a fellow engineer:** In this time of great uncertainty, students are seeking mentors. If you haven't yet, please join [Viterbi Link](#) to provide students and other alumni the

resources to succeed professionally.

4. **Student Success Funds:** Given the new financial realities, there are a number of students having difficulty meeting their basic needs like food and housing. If you are in a position to help students receive funding to face these unprecedented challenges, please consider supporting our [USC Viterbi Student Emergency Assistance Fund](#). In addition, President Carol L. Folt announced the creation of [four university-wide funds](#) to aid USC students, health care workers, community members and employees who are affected by COVID-19.

When this crisis passes, we hope to be remembered by how we remained true to our mission, our values, our purpose, and our commitment to all the members of the Trojan Family.

Thank you for all you do and for your thoughtful consideration during this difficult time, and Fight On!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yannis C. Yortsos".

Yannis C. Yortsos