



For Immediate Release
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Salus University Provost Participates in COVID-19 Panel Discussion



Elkins Park, Pa. — Salus University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Barry Eckert, PhD, was recently invited to serve as a panelist for the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP). The panel discussion “COVID-19 and Reopening Plans for Health Professions Education This Fall” was held virtually with panelists Christopher Ingersoll, PhD, University of Central Florida College of Health Professions and Sciences founding dean; Charlene Portee, PhD, Alabama State University College of Health Sciences dean; David Shelledy, PhD, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Health Professions dean and professor and ASAHP President Phyllis King. The panel of university leaders discussed different approaches to reopening this fall, and the implications and challenges plans have on health professions education as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr. Eckert explained the scenario planning approach Salus used, allowing University officials to outline plans for several reopen dates due to the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic. All

plans were also based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure maximum safety of the University and the community at large.

“Clinical education is huge,” Dr. Eckert said. “We also had to consider the responsibility of our clinics to the clients who they serve and the community that they serve – and paramount was the overall safety of our students, faculty and staff.”

To watch a recording of the virtual event, visit asahp.org/webinars.

The fall semester at Salus starts August 24, resuming the majority of on-campus operations in accordance with the school’s safety strategy. Additional information, including protocols and procedures can be found on the University’s updated COVID-19 webpage – www.salus.edu/COVID-19.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.