

Introduction

Understanding that we live in contentious and uncertain times, this community commits itself to a covenant of care for the successful navigation of the 2020-2021 academic year.

We believe that we are family. Our experience as faculty, staff, administration, and students signifies our bonds to one another under the name of Barton College and in the spirit of the **Barton Experience**. We are guided by our commitments to offer others **a place at the table**, to create a sense of **home**, to expand our **purposes and passions, to learn together**, and to **serve the greater good**. All of these commitments are underscored by the emotional intelligence that we demonstrate when we practice empathy.

Empathy requires that we recognize, comprehend, and value others' feelings. It encompasses the acts of communicating one's understanding of another's perspective and responding with respect. We understand that though we live in times of separation, we remain bound by inextricable measures that enable us, through empathy, to preserve the wellbeing of the Barton College family. We understand that our choices have consequences for ourselves and for other members of this family. In an effort to maintain unity amid separation, we commit ourselves to upholding certain community measures, and we profess that **we will not let our differences separate us**.

The Pledge

We understand and value the **health and wellness** of our students and all employees.

- Therefore, we will support the Barton family by upholding the guidance of the State of North Carolina related to COVID-19 inclusive of wearing masks, practicing social distancing, limiting group size, and paying attention to good hygiene.

We respect the rights of people to **move about campus, engage in travel, welcome guests, and enjoy social experiences under the guidelines of the College**.

- Therefore, utilizing those rights during the COVID pandemic means we commit to limiting our movements, our travel, our guests, and our social behavior; understanding that failure to do so may jeopardize our health and the educational mission of the College.

We celebrate our ability to gather on this campus to attain an education. In that celebration, we will **commit to excellence in the classroom, the co-curriculum, and everywhere else we represent the College**.

- Therefore, we will read carefully the guidelines set forth in course syllabi and in the College's Code of Conduct. We will honor our faculty and our students with respect at all times.

Taken together, these commitments serve to ensure that we will stand united as the Barton community, committed to our own wellbeing and that of others.