



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND PRESIDENT
Dr. John J. McGrath**

August 21, 2020

Dear Students,

On August 12, 2020, Mildred Elley's institutional accrediting body, the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools ("ABHES"), informed the school that it had been placed on show cause status because placement and retention statistics for some of the school's programs as reported to ABHES fell below required thresholds. We believe that our program outcomes have been impacted by the current national emergency related to COVID-19. Since the pandemic and the accompanying economic recession began, institutions throughout Higher Education have experienced higher levels of student withdrawals and the overall unemployment rate has increased. Unfortunately, the school has not been spared the repercussions of these events and their effect on our outcomes.

It is important that all members of the school community understand what show cause status is not and what it is. Show cause is not an adverse accrediting action, and it does not mean that the school will lose its accreditation. Show cause status does not affect any student's enrollment, eligibility for financial aid, or ability to obtain professional licensure, certification, or registry, if the student is enrolled in a program that leads to professional licensure, certification, or registry. ABHES uses show cause status to inform a member school of ABHES' expectation that the school take specific corrective action and provide other information to address ABHES' concerns. In this case, the show cause status provides the school with time and an opportunity to share its action plan to achieve the ABHES thresholds for retention and placement for those programs which are currently not achieving a 70% retention or 70% placement rate.

The school believes that it will be able to satisfactorily address ABHES' concerns. If it successfully does so, the school will be returned to its normal accrediting status. The school's response to ABHES is due on November 1, 2020 and will be taken up by ABHES' Commission in their meeting scheduled for January 2021.

As for the school's response to ABHES, we are in the process of implementing multiple initiatives which are designed to allow the school to demonstrate improvement in the program outcomes that are of concern to ABHES. Our action plan will also meet additional ABHES requirements and will ensure that every student has the opportunity to successfully complete their program at the school. Please know that the school's leadership will remain focused on resolving all of the issues leading to the show cause status and we will provide additional updates as they are warranted. Should you have any questions, you may send an email to: meadministration@mildred-elley.edu.

Sincerely,

Dr. John J. McGrath
Chief Executive Officer and President

Albany, NY Campus
855 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
p: (518) 786-0855
f: (518) 786-0011

New York City, Metro Campus
25 Broadway, Floor 16
New York, NY 10004
p: (212) 380-9004
f: (212) 232-0217

Pittsfield, MA Campus
100 West Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
p: (413) 442-0333
f: (413) 442-2269

www.mildred-elley.edu