



Office of the President

April 28, 2021

Daemen College
Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having an enjoyable and productive semester.

Earlier today, Information Technology sent out instructions regarding a new security upgrade. I want to emphasize the importance of everyone's cooperation with this enhanced security measure. Higher education overall has seen an increase in cyberattacks over the last several years, and the average ransom demand was \$447,000. Cyberattacks include ransomware, hacking, and phishing.

There have been several local, cautionary examples as well. On March 12, 2021, the Buffalo Public Schools experienced a cyberattack that led to the cancellation of classes for a week. On July 22, 2020, Erie Community College suffered a cyberattack that took down systems and services and impacted classes. On February 13, 2020, Niagara University experienced a cyberattack that led to the cancellation of classes and took down the college's web site.

While there is no single tactic to prevent all cyberattacks, Daemen College has taken several proactive steps, including the use of multi-factor authentication (MFA). Also known as two-step verification, MFA is an additional layer of security in the login process. It combines something you "need to know" such as your password with something you "need to have" such as your smartphone or computer to confirm your identity. In combination with simulated monthly phishing awareness, multi-factor authentication can help protect institutional data, information, systems, and services.

Cybersecurity is essential to the success and stability of the college. We all play an important role in keeping our college safe from these debilitating attacks. If you have any questions or need assistance please reach out to our IT professionals or visit the <https://howdoi.daemen.edu/>

Thank you for helping keep our college and its data secure.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary A. Olson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gary A. Olson
President