Dear Friend,

In these unprecedented times Boston and the nation, the first concern of Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (BFIT) is the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. Last week we decided to move all classes online. To support social distancing and other risk reduction practices we have asked non-essential staff to telecommute. And we actively encourage any sick student or employee to seek medical advice and self-quarantine for the safety of others.

Going online and minimizing our presence on campus is the right decision, but some in BFIT’s student population struggle with housing and food insecurity. Many work hourly in retail and food service jobs to support their families and cover expenses. Many of these will lose wages and struggle to afford the tools to continue their BFIT courses online, even to afford basics like rent, food, and medicine.

We surveyed our students to gauge their needs, and we are working to ensure access to computers and the internet. We are distributing food from our food pantry and making grants from the emergency fund to support our students most at risk.

**We need our friends and the broader BFIT community to help in these challenging times. Please consider making a gift to our emergency fund by visiting BFIT.edu/EmergencyFund.** Your gift will help stabilize the life of a student struggling to make ends meet during this very uncertain time. By addressing basic living issues we hope to empower students to continue their education and emerge quickly and successfully into the good jobs that improve lives when things are good and that are even more critical in times like these.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. These days we need to keep our physical distance but we trust that you will stay close to BFIT’s students in spirit in the coming weeks. We remain a community focused on the transformative power of education and the benefit of sharing community resources to help those with the greatest need.

We believe our students can count on you.

Our best regards,

Anthony Benoit   Angela Johnson
President    Chief Advancement Officer