



Winter 12-1-2020

Karla Carney-Hall Says Education and Enforcement Key to COVID-19 Response

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Recommended Citation

Stock, Eric, "Karla Carney-Hall Says Education and Enforcement Key to COVID-19 Response" (2020). *Interviews for WGLT*. 81.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/wgl_t_interviews/81

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WGLT Interview with Karla Carney-Hall, August 1, 2020

Announcer: Let's lead off with how Illinois Wesleyan University is trying to spread out its student population to prevent and covid-19 outbreak on campus this fall. Eric Stock has the details.

Eric Stock: Illinois Wesleyan is offering a mix of in person and online instruction this fall. Students can room with someone or have their own room for better social distancing that limits the available beds to about a thousand. Karla Carney-Hall chairs the universities contingency planning committee she says the university with randomly select up to 140 students to live in a hotel.

Karla Carney-Hall: We really tried to be as thoughtful as we could be about how to place folks um and also just recognize there's no easy decision making there.

Stock: the university isn't ready to announce the hotels yet they're still in negotiations. Carney-Hall says students have access to connect transit to bus to and from campus it's paid for by their student fees, their housing fees will remain the same. Students will also be tested for covid-19 as soon as they arrive on campus.

Carney-Hall: We really felt that with the information on um on the asymptomatic spreaders that we wanted to make sure that we caught things early.

Stock: Carney-Hall says a key part of the universities contingency response is quickly identifying and isolating covid cases.

Carney-Hall: We would try to isolate the area of concern right so if it's a class, if its particular courses, if it's a residence hall floor, that we would work to isolate the concern.

Stock: Carney-Hall says the university expects up to 80 students to choose an all-virtual option this fall the semester starts a week earlier than usual. The schedule is condensed so students won't have to come back after Thanksgiving there by limiting the potential spread of infection. The university will also require everyone to wear a mask. For the lead off I'm Eric Stock.