President Kathy Murray has joined college and university presidents across the nation in signing a letter to the Department of Education (DOE) to encourage the training of the COVID-19 pandemic, saying that it is "a time to act in the national interest in order to protect our students and ensure that they have tools to navigate the pandemic." 

President Murray is urging the DOE to ensure that emergency planning for COVID-19 is a core component of higher education regulations. She also encouraged the DOE to help support the development of a comprehensive and consistent plan for the fall semester, including the potential for remote learning.

President Murray pointed out that the American College Health Association has developed a set of guidelines for the fall semester, which includes a variety of public health measures. She added that these guidelines are based on the latest scientific evidence and best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19. 

In addition, President Murray emphasized the importance of offering online courses and virtual learning options, which can help reduce the risk of transmission. She also encouraged the DOE to provide funding for colleges and universities to support the development of emergency plans and response strategies.

The letter to the DOE is a part of the "Advocacy for America" campaign, which is a nationwide initiative to support higher education institutions in their efforts to ensure the health and safety of students and employees. The letter is signed by college and university presidents from across the United States, including those from Princeton, Harvard, and Stanford.

"We are writing to urge the Department of Education to prioritize the health and safety of our students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic," President Murray said in the letter. "We are committed to doing everything in our power to protect the well-being of our students and staff, and we ask that the DOE work closely with us to develop a comprehensive and consistent plan for the fall semester."