Thank you for your institution’s help in ensuring that your students are accurately counted in the 2020 Census. This help is vital to the U.S. Census Bureau and your community.

Students are to be counted at the address they reside while attending college rather than back home with their families. The census counts people—including college students—where they usually live as of April 1, 2020, even if they left town early because of a school closure or shift to distance learning. The data is important to your state and locality’s funding, political representation, and planning. We are already working with your student housing administrative staff to ensure your on-campus students are counted.

Today, I write to request your assistance in ensuring a complete and accurate count of the off-campus students enrolled at your school. Local Census Bureau staff will begin reaching out to your institution starting June 16 to discuss the collection of basic information about students who live off-campus, including local address information.

Any information provided by your institution will be protected by Title 13 U.S.C. Section 9. The Census Bureau will not share or release personally identifiable information in any form. Our staff will provide information about how to send the records through a secure portal or by other arrangements. If you have any questions or would like to provide a point of contact, please reach out to Decennial Management Division c/o Sarah Brady Clark at 2020.Census.Paperwork@Census.gov.

Thank you again for your help in ensuring a complete and accurate count of your student population. Indeed, the 2020 Census will shape their future and the future of your community for years to come!

Sincerely,

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.