

April 17 COVID-19 Update

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2020-04-14 Chancellor's Report.pdf;

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are adjusting to “remote work” and are finding ways to enjoy your family – although I must admit that it’s a lot of together time! As we enter our second month of staying at home, I want to thank you for everything you have done to make the transition successful. Your achievements in modifying District operations have been phenomenal. At the April 14 Board of Trustees meeting, I shared progress from across the District and want you to see the results, as well. (Slides from Board meeting are attached.)

Over 90% of our classes are now being conducted online or remotely. The exceptions include those courses that require face-to-face lab time, clinical rotations, and community service classes, but we are making progress on these courses, too, thanks to our innovative faculty. Discussions are taking place across the District about the Governor’s framework for reopening the State and the implications for resuming on-campus instruction. As these guidelines become clearer, we will determine if resuming some campus-based instruction and work are feasible. This may involve reconfiguring our classrooms and work spaces to ensure social distancing or other ways to keep employees and students safe.

Another great accomplishment has been the conversion of student support services to an online format. All three institutions continue to offer counseling, tutoring, library services, and disability support services – just to name a few – to our students. Technology training and support are also available to employees and students. The Foundations at both Colleges have established emergency grants for students and those funds have begun to be dispersed.

What used to be routine processes have been modified to keep the District and Colleges functioning. The campuses identified approximately 30 critical vacancies and those hiring processes will proceed using a virtual format. Other positions have been suspended or postponed until we can renew in-person interviews. Payroll and timesheet procedures were changed to allow spreadsheets to be used instead of individual timesheets. For those who are coming onsite to work, masks are being provided and sign-in sheets document which areas need to be sanitized every day.

To get to this point, it has taken all of us – faculty, classified professionals, confidentials, and managers – working together to serve our students and keep operations running. I know many of you have spent countless hours making all of this happen and deeply appreciate all of your efforts. I hope the stipends and pay differentials are one way of demonstrating how the Board of Trustees and the District value your contributions. At a time when millions of people are out of work and many colleges are planning for furloughs of essential staff because of falling revenues, NOCCCD is in the enviable position of providing for all of our employees without hesitation. Every one of you is appreciated.

Thank you! Continue to stay well – physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Cheryl

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