To WCCCD Students and Employees,

Wayne County Community College District students will be welcomed back for the 2020 fall semester to a full slate of on-site and face-to-face instructional programs as well as distance learning offerings. After being forced into an alternative delivery modality during the spring semester by the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WCCCD is ready to return to what it does best: the face-to-face interactions between students and faculty that are so essential to our instructional programs, student support services, and district and campus operations. WCCCD is “home” to many of our students who depend on the collegiate environment to give meaning and normalcy to their lives.

The physical and emotional health of our students and employees is our first priority as we prepare for the fall semester. It is imperative that we create a learning and work environment that gives our students, employees, and all who enter our buildings confidence that WCCCD is a safe place to study and work. To that end, we have developed the “New Ways to Work and Study” program, a comprehensive plan of work to respond to the challenges of the COVID pandemic and plan the phased reopening of WCCCD to full operations. This program will require discipline on the part of each individual and “all hands-on deck” work by all faculty and staff groups. Every dimension of this program matters. Special arrangements for vulnerable students and employees matter. Maintaining physical distance matters. Staying home if ill matters. By “learning new ways to work and study,” we can protect one another’s lives and, by extension, the lives of our loved ones and our neighbors.

We have taken a number of major steps to respond to the anxiety that many of our students, faculty, and staff have about their physical and emotional health as they consider re-entering our facilities. A COVID-19 task force, with the support of WCCCD’s Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education, has spent several months on projects such as:
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- redesigning and modifying spaces in our facilities;
- creating a required employee COVID-19 protective training program;
- setting up screening processes at each building entrance;
- establishing strict deep cleaning processes and schedules;
- planning case management and incident tracking; and
- creating visual management guides such as signs, barriers, and clear markers to create safe circulation patterns.

In all these and other ways, we are fulfilling our commitment to make WCCCD a safe place to study and work.

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor