



Wayne County Community College District

Curtis L. Ivery District Office

801 W. Fort Street
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 496-2510
(313) 961-9439 fax

Dr. Curtis L. Ivery
Chancellor
civery1@wcccd.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: WCCCD Family
FROM: Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Holiday Message
DATE: December 18, 2020

I extend to all the members of the WCCCD family—students, faculty, and staff—my very best wishes for a joyful, restful, and safe holiday. As we end 2020 in the middle of a global pandemic, we need the timeless message of love, hope, peace, and good will more than ever. 2020 has been the most disruptive, anxiety-producing, and exhausting year in our lifetimes from both personal and professional perspectives, and yet as a WCCCD family we persevered and stayed on course. The WCCCD spirit of resolve, resilience, compassion, and hopefulness shined through the darkness. As we end this tumultuous year, my attitude is one of gratefulness to all those who created a healthy and safe campus environment for students, employees, and guests, and assured the continuity of WCCCD’s programs, services, and operations.

In response to the multiple challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we adapted the theme *New Day, New Way*. We recognized that we would never return to “the way things were”—that WCCCD was facing a new reality (a new day) and that we would have to discover new ways to respond to the changing needs of the students, businesses, and communities that we serve. For example, the pandemic spotlighted the financial and personal vulnerability of many of our students. Our staff members responded with a range of wraparound student support services including food pantries, new forms of financial aid, a student success hotline, and virtual advising and tutoring. In these ways, we continued to focus on economic equity in our student success and completion efforts.

Our students and faculty responded with resilience, agility, and persistence to the urgent need to rapidly transition to online and other remote teaching and learning methods. The faculty professional development program to enhance online teaching skills was expanded. Staff members who were designated as “essential workers” kept our on-site operations functioning with courage and devotion. Our faculty and staff designed virtual means to hold celebratory

events such as the Nursing and Allied Health Pinning Ceremony and the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony. The award-winning student literary magazine, Reflections, was still published. A major redesign of WCCCD's website was undertaken. In these and many other ways, our students, faculty, and staff seem to be saying, "We're here! Our doors are open! We can do this!"

We can look ahead to the year 2021 with great anticipation. Even as we continue the protocols put in place to assure a healthy and safe environment to work and study for those entering campus buildings and the current arrangements for learning and working at home, we can prepare for the post-COVID-19 era. We can prepare for the time when the vaccine for the coronavirus has been widely administered and we are authorized to return to full service on-campus operations. We can adjust to the financial realities and student enrollment uncertainties faced by WCCCD and other community colleges. We can begin to imagine what blending of online, remote, and in-person approaches will emerge as we learn and work together in this new era. It will truly be an exciting new day requiring new ways to learn, work, and serve. *But first, enjoy a well-deserved holiday!*