



Wayne County Community College District

District Office

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Educational Affairs

August 21, 2020

To WCCCD Faculty,

As you are aware from the Chancellor's letter dated August 20, 2020, Educational Affairs has moved a majority of WCCCD face-to-face courses, with the exception of lab, health sciences and career courses, to an alternative virtual model to begin the Fall 2020 semester. The list of exceptions is available for your review at: <http://www.wcccd.edu/pdfs/2020/FL20%20Campus-Based%20F2F.pdf> to determine how your schedule has been impacted. **It should be noted that online courses (Virtual Campus) scheduled for the Fall semester will continue as planned and are not impacted by this decision.**

We realize that the alternative virtual delivery model may be unfamiliar territory for many of you, but it is our best option for assuring that you and your students can complete the Fall semester successfully and safely. The alternative virtual model features the WCCCD Blackboard learning platform's virtual classroom through Collaborate. Blackboard Collaborate allows faculty to deliver instruction during their designated class day and time but from a virtual classroom approach. **The virtual classroom meeting model is designed to deliver instruction during the time period indicated in a faculty member's assignment which is aligned with the course schedule selected by the students.** Many of you will recognize the approach as a "synchronous virtual model." For example, for a Monday/Wednesday course beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 10:25 a.m., the assigned faculty member is expected to meet virtually with students and deliver instruction from 9:00 a.m. until 10:25 a.m. on Monday/Wednesday. This virtual modality has no requirement to physically be at any campus location. The only requirement is to conduct instruction virtually at the same day and time as if it were in person.

The District would like to thank the faculty who voluntarily spent their time this summer participating in learning about delivering virtual instruction through the District Blackboard platform. We are deeply appreciative of your commitment to our students and your willingness to learn to enhance your technological skills as it relates to Blackboard.

We appreciate faculty members who have maintained contact and communication with their students during these uncertain times. **If you have not already done so, please contact your students for each of your classes by Sunday, August 23, and assist them with understanding the alternative virtual delivery method to be used for instruction, your contact information, along with the required course work and due dates.**

Many students may not have access to a computer, Internet, and/or adequate data sources. In an equity-minded spirit, the campuses will be open and the Campus Presidents have been working to provide open lab time and student services to assure that all students have the fullest possible opportunity for a meaningful learning experience and the successful completion of their courses. Faculty are also able to use the open labs if needed.

WCCCD would like to thank the faculty for their flexibility, commitment, and patience as we continue to navigate through these uncertain times. Call the Faculty Hotline toll-free at 1-844-245-0358, or email facultyhotline@wcccd.edu, as a resource for faculty questions pertaining to teaching and learning. Calls and emails will be responded to within 24 business hours. In all these and other ways, we are fulfilling our commitment to make WCCCD a safe place to study and work. Please continue to visit the WCCCD website and your WCCCD email for updates as more information becomes available.

Yours truly,

Dr. David E. Beaumont, Ph. D.

Vice Chancellor of Educational Affairs