


Wayne County Community College District

District Office - Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Users

FROM:  Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Message Regarding WCCCD's Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic:
Reflections and a Longer-Term Perspective

DATE: March 20, 2020, Page 1 of 2

WCCCD Family and Friends,

WCCCD is at a “reset” moment as we make immediate, medium-term, and long-term decisions about the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on WCCCD's students, faculty, staff, programs, and services. Our Coronavirus Emergency Team is meeting daily to monitor, evaluate, and respond to the rapidly evolving situation on the ground.

To protect the health and safety of all WCCCD stakeholders as the coronavirus crisis deepens, we have taken the drastic step of closing all campus and District buildings to students and the public and suspending all classes, services, and operations through Friday, April 17, 2020 (subject to change or extension as evolving conditions require).

During this phase, we are assessing our next steps to enable our students to complete their courses for the Spring Semester in a quality manner. We are continuously updating our website and social media and providing frequent communication via email to students, faculty, and staff. We have created a command center to provide a source of information for faculty and students, and we are reaching out to our most vulnerable students. During this period, key staff will be on duty in order to maintain essential services. We recognize that these abrupt changes are causing disruption, anxiety and uncertainty for those impacted, and we will do our utmost to respond to each individual need as it arises. I am impressed with, and thankful for, the compassion, grit, and “can do” spirit of our faculty and staff as they together respond in the best possible way to this unprecedented crisis.

As we navigate through the immediate crisis, the WCCCD Board of Trustees and District leadership will also take a longer-term perspective as we anticipate, to the extent possible, the trajectory of the coronavirus and its impact on WCCCD, our communities, and the nation. We will undertake medium-term strategies such as contingency planning for the Summer and Fall

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Semesters. As well, we will consider options if the coronavirus crisis persists over a longer period of time. We must factor in the personnel and financial implications of a severe economic downturn at the local, state, and national levels. We must prepare for the “worst case” even though that means we “over-prepare” in ways that may turn out to be unnecessary. In these difficult and uncertain times, we will also work with our partners to reach out in service to those in our communities who are most in need.

As we persevere through this crisis, we will learn several valuable lessons. We will become even more resilient. We will learn to better deal with ambiguity and uncertainty. We will develop a student-centered balance between the in-class and remote learning teaching and learning modalities. We will strengthen faculty and staff emergency response training. We will increase the use of social media and other digital methods for communicating and operating. In these and other ways, we will become nimbler and more innovative at all levels.

I am very appreciative of the support you have given me, the Board of Trustees, and the Coronavirus Emergency Team as we together respond to the challenges we face. Your collaboration is essential as we navigate the hours, days, weeks, and months ahead. I am confident that WCCCD will emerge from this crisis with renewed strength as we continue to achieve our mission of empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve their higher education and career advancement goals through excellent, accessible, culturally diverse, and globally competitive programs and services.

Thank you.