



Wayne County Community College District

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Users

FROM: Curtis L. Ivery, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Message to the WCCCD Family: Welcome to the Beginning of the Fall 2020 Semester and the 2020-21 Academic Year

DATE: July 28, 2020, Page 1 of 4

It is my pleasure to welcome students, faculty, and staff as we carefully move forward with the beginning of the Fall 2020 Semester classes and the 2020-21 academic year and the phased reopening of WCCCD's campuses, programs, services, and operations. Because of the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Fall Semester will be different than any other educational experiences we have had throughout our lifetimes. It is reassuring to know that the WCCCD faculty and staff have worked tirelessly for several months to successfully meet these challenges. In the final analysis, we go forward because it is vitally important that our students are empowered to pursue their educational and career goals, that we provide the skilled workforce needed by regional employers, and that we engage with our community partners in achieving economic and talent development. Concurrently, we will continue to track the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic on a daily basis and will be prepared for whatever contingency may emerge.

As we progress with the phased reopening of WCCCD's programs, services, and operations, I am mindful of the many concerns that members of the WCCCD family may have about the COVID-19 pandemic—the health of loved ones, personal safety and health, financial pressures, and the uncertainty of the trajectory, scope, and duration of the pandemic. With these concerns in mind, the faculty and staff members are going the extra mile to address the emerging special needs of our students and to make WCCCD a safe place to study and work.

New Day, New Way

WCCCD's theme for the 2020-21 academic year is *New Day, New Way*. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way we live, work, and study—perhaps in permanent ways. This is a *new day* for WCCCD because the educational, economic, technological, and social context within which we operate is dramatically changing. We must develop *new ways* for our instructional programs, student support services, and community development services to respond effectively to these altered realities.

Dimensions of the Beginning of the Fall 2020 Semester and the 2020-21 Academic Year

There are several dimensions of our effort to achieve a successful beginning of the Fall 2020 Semester and the 2020-21 academic year: (1) as our first priority, taking extraordinary COVID-19 preventative measures to assure the physical and emotional health and safety of students, employees, and all who enter WCCCD buildings, (2) reopening WCCCD's campuses, programs, services, and operations through the comprehensive "phased campus reopening plan" (see section below), (3) providing all-around support to students and employees in learning new ways to work and study in a COVID-19 preventative environment, (4) providing students with Fall 2020 Semester instructional delivery options to accommodate both online and face-to-face teaching and learning modalities, and (5) developing alternative scenarios that anticipate the varied trajectories the COVID-19 pandemic could take over the next several months.

Phased Campus Reopening Plan

WCCCD's phased campus reopening plan is guided by Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), and other local, state, and federal regulatory agencies. This plan provides a framework for the phased reopening of WCCCD's campuses, programs, services, and operations as COVID-19 conditions permit. WCCCD is currently in Phase 3 (moderate alert) of a four-phase plan that anticipates in the final phase the discovery and wide distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. During Phase 3, WCCCD is open with many COVID-19 preventative measures in place to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, staff, vendors, and all others who enter WCCCD buildings. These preventative measures are well-known to most by this time and are outlined in the "Student and Employee Health and Safety" section below.

Student and Employee Health and Safety

The COVID-19 Response Team, supported by staff of the Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education (MIPSE), is guiding WCCCD's efforts to assure the physical and emotional safety of students, faculty, staff, vendors, and guests who enter WCCCD facilities. MIPSE monitors and updates responses as compliance requirements (Governor's executive orders, MIOSHA, OSHA, and CDC, etc.) change. Dimensions of this comprehensive health and safety initiative include:

- Building entrance control (entry monitoring stations, COVID-19 screening, required entry hand washing, emergency egress and flow, and other controls).
- Required masks in classrooms and throughout buildings.
- Employee COVID-19 training.
- Reconfiguration of classrooms, offices, conference rooms, and other spaces to assure social distancing.
- Provision to employees of masks, gloves, face shields, soap, and cleaning/disinfectant solutions.
- Periodic deep cleaning of hard services, restrooms, and other common use areas.
- Support to Human Resources and other divisions in assuring employee understanding of and compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Instructional Programs: 2020 Fall Semester Plans

Fall 2020 Semester course offerings provide opportunities for students to choose face-to-face and/or online and distance learning modalities. Keeping in mind the unstable COVID-19 climate, the Educational Affairs Division has made provisions for on-campus face-to-face class sizes that accommodate social distance guidelines, reviewed the availability and capacity of faculty to provide online instruction, and worked with the Center for Learning Technology to increase the skills of faculty members in using the District's online instruction delivery model. The Educational Affairs Division is working with the Student Services Division and the Information Technology Division to develop an agile instructional delivery system that anticipates changing public health conditions and directives. Faculty members will gather in a virtual format on August 22 for the Fall Semester Faculty Convocation, a professional development opportunity for faculty. The theme of this convocation is "Student Success in a COVID-19 Environment." The first day of Fall 2020 Semester classes is Monday, August 24.

Student Support Services: Adapting to COVID-19 Challenges

To respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Services Division has dramatically enhanced its online student support services to complement those services that require on-site and face-to-face interactions. Online services include admissions, registration, advising, financial aid, new student orientation, services to veterans, and career planning and placement. The Division is currently updating the student success toolkit to include COVID-19-specific support services. Faculty will be trained on the use of this resource guide, and the toolkit will be a part of course syllabi given to all students. Recognizing that COVID-19 has worsened the financial circumstances of many students, WCCCD offers qualified students both an "amnesty" program so that students with outstanding balances can register for classes and a "debt forgiveness program." Students may also qualify for the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) program. Students may access 24/7 the Student Success Hotline (313-496-2634) and the Student Financial Aid Hotline (313-496-2865). They may also email questions to studentservices@mail.wcccd.edu and access their student portal Web-Gate account 24/7 to register for classes, perform a degree audit using Degree Works, order official transcripts, and access on-demand academic tutoring support. It should be noted that athletic programs have been postponed until the Spring 2021 Semester.

COVID-19 Special Unit in Human Resources

The Human Resources Division has created the "COVID-19 Special Unit" to address all personnel matters related to WCCCD's COVID-19 response. This special unit guides and supports faculty and staff in areas such as COVID-19 training, compliance with health and safety protocols, monitoring and documentation of COVID-19 developments and issues, COVID-19 incident tracking and reporting, and providing elevated precautions for employees with high-risk conditions.

COVID-19-Related Website Updates

The WCCCD website continues to provide updates on the college's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following pages were developed to ensure students, faculty, staff, and the community stay informed:

- WCCCD Response to the COVID-19 - <http://www.wcccd.edu/coronavirus.html>
 - This page also contains a section where all COVID-related communication is accessible for viewing
 - Information about the Student Success Hotline, Faculty Hotline, and the Student Success for Financial Aid Hotline
- Student Support Services During COVID-19 - http://www.wcccd.edu/students/SS_coronavirus.html
- Frequently Asked Questions - <http://www.wcccd.edu/Faqs.html>
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Financial Aid - http://www.wcccd.edu/Faqs_FinancialAid.html

COVID-19-Related Accomplishments and Recognitions

- WCCCD and CVS Pharmacy have partnered to provide COVID-19 testing at the Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. The testing is available through July 31, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at no cost with results in as little as 20 minutes.
- In the last three weeks, WCCCD's Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education has delivered 2,200 face masks, 99 boxes of gloves and 97 personal face shields for employee use District-wide.
- During the Spring Semester, students in the college's Fashion Design Industry Sewing (FAD 101) course, who had never sewn before enrolling in the course, managed to complete the semester using the Alternative Instruction Model. Faculty member Ms. Angela Slate utilized various resources (such as phone, email, videoconferencing, etc.) and creative sewing techniques that led students to make PPE for themselves, their families, and their communities. Some of the students even sold their masks and generated income. The students learned valuable sewing skills and had the opportunity to gain entrepreneurial experience as well.

A Thank You to Students, Faculty, and Staff

As we begin the 2020-21 academic year, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of the WCCCD faculty and staff to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and provide exceptional services to the students, businesses, and communities that we serve. I wish to thank our students for the privilege of serving them during this challenging time and having the opportunity to make a positive difference in their lives.