June 7, 2021

CHANCELLOR’S SUMMER/FALL 2021 MESSAGE TO THE WCCCD FAMILY

Greetings to all members of the WCCCD family—students, faculty, staff, and community supporters—as we celebrate the achievements of our 2021 graduates, welcome students for our summer sessions, and prepare for the Fall 2021 semester. Good progress is being made in the Detroit and Southeastern Michigan region in getting the COVID-19 pandemic under control, including the achievement of vaccination goals. This means that we can prepare for a more typical Fall semester in terms of providing fuller and more robust on-campus programming and services. However, we must be forever vigilant as we safely transition students and employees back to on-campus learning and working environments. Our COVID-19 Response Team and the COVID-19 Special Unit in Human Resources will continue to enforce the protocols required for a safe environment. I strongly encourage all students and employees to be vaccinated as the best way to protect yourselves, your families, and your students and colleagues at WCCCD.

WCCCD is truly entering its “New Day, New Way” era. As we prepare for the Fall semester, we will be applying many of the lessons learned from the pandemic. The faculty and staff have adapted to the dramatically increased use of learning and information technologies during the pandemic that offered a new balance of on-campus and virtual programs and services. WCCCD has renewed its fierce commitment to achieving a different and more equitable future for our students and the communities we serve. We are reinventing student support services in response to the educational, personal, and family needs of our students. We launched the “Reinvent Diversity/Equity/Inclusion” initiative, the redesign of the Learning Resource Centers (LRCs), and a new center focused on innovation and best practices in teaching pedagogy. The pandemic resulted in a nationwide student enrollment decline and the related loss of revenue, and so we are tightening our belts and taking a very disciplined and forward-looking approach to the use of our financial and other resources.

Today, as we move into the post-COVID-19 period, we stand at the threshold of a new phase of WCCCD’s pathway to the future (Pathways to the Future IV). I cannot imagine another period of our history when WCCCD’s open door mission has been more vital to the success of the students, businesses, and communities we serve. With enduring gratitude to those who sacrificed and persisted during the pandemic, we now build the WCCCD of the future that those whom we serve so urgently need.