

Thing to Know - Friday, March 13, 2020

Kindred Murillo

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Good afternoon Southwestern College Professionals,

It is our last day before we move to remote instruction and operations next week, and I want to start by thanking all our employees and students (we will have training on the Chula Vista Campus tomorrow). Planning for this transition has required hard work and all of us being our best selves. Please accept my sincere gratitude and the Governing Board's appreciation for the way this college has been able to come together to slow the spread of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) virus. You kept students at the center of your efforts.

Again, thank you to all the faculty who have been using their academic freedom to transition to remote and distributed learning that continues to serve our students. Thank you to all our classified professionals who have been flexible, collaborative, and patient as they work with their administrators to continue their work next week in the best way possible. And thank you to our students who trust us to be there for you.

Thank you to the Jag Kitchen, including Patie Bartow and Jenny Sabas, and their excellent student workers who have made sure our students don't go without these next couple of weeks. Please see the following link:

[Link to NBC San Diego](#)

The health and safety of our students and employees is still our top priority.

Canceling large events, moving learning and operations remotely, and staying home is the only way we'll slow the spread of the virus and save lives. Social distancing only works if we take steps to distance ourselves from others, even if we take them before they seem necessary. Our health care systems are becoming overwhelmed, so slowing COVID-19 down is essential.

College Police will be actively monitoring the campus for the next couple of weeks. If you need to return to the Chula Vista campus to pick something up, you must contact the College Police dispatch at (619) 482-6380 to let them know you will be on campus. The higher education centers will not be accessible.

Please continue to check our health updates website at https:

<https://www.swccd.edu/student-support/health-services/special-health-updates.aspx>

It has incredible resources for our students as they transition to remote learning, and it is a place where we will continue to update our campus community.

Out-of-Office Messages

We know many of you want a consistent message for out-of-office messages, even though many employees will be actively checking email and working to get remote access to their voicemail.

Southwestern College is currently participating in social distancing to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I apologize if you receive a delay in my response. I will have limited access to voicemail but will be actively checking email.

*The best way to reach me during this time is **[email or phone number or both]**.*

Southwestern College will continue to be closed from March 23-28 for spring break.

If you want to make a quick sign for your door, you can use the following verbiage. Feel free to modify for what best works for your office or department.

“Southwestern College will be practicing social distancing from Monday, March 16, 2020 through Sunday, March 29, 2020 to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. During this time, employees will be working remotely and classes have been converted to online and distributed formats. This also means that some services will not be available to the public, such as food services and restrooms.

Please check our website for important health updates: <http://swccd.edu/healthupdates>.”

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Professional Development Opportunities

MyLearningPlan on the [MySWC Portal](#) will continue to offer training that employees can register for and access remotely. Additionally, SWC professionals may go to the [Professional Development Resources](#) section of the Professional Development webpage to access a host of training from a wide variety of topics.

Final Thoughts

As we leave today, I hope you will continue to care for each other and check-in with your colleagues throughout the next couple of weeks. This college has come together to do a phenomenal job during this crisis and thank you to every employee who has helped students and your colleagues. Please be safe and careful.

And please make sure you check in on March 23, 2020 for further information.

“Let’s not lose hope in humanity, instead live to help others. We can make a difference.” – **Anonymous**

With great respect,

Kindred

Kindred Murillo, Ed.D.

Superintendent/President

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Vulnerability is our most accurate measurement of courage.

Brené Brown

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