Good Morning @SWC Professionals,

As a leadership team, we are committed to keeping our campus community updated as we work to stop the spread of COVID-19 and continue our college operations in order to serve our students. Thank you for your understanding, commitment, and willingness to work with us to serve our students and help each other through this.

As we finalize more decisions, I promise we will update you. Here are the decisions moving forward at this time:

- We will be moving all instruction online through the rest of the semester and looking at creative/safe ways our Career Education classes, labs, performance-based classes and art studio classes can continue.
- Summer session will continue and we will begin moving courses to online. Summer session registration begins soon, and we do not want to impact registration.
- We will transition counseling, including EOPS, DSS, veterans, to online. We will be working to provide support to those departments.
- We will continue to update you as we receive information.
- We are using planning blocks, April, May, June. We have been asked to plan until June and advised this will go beyond that.
- We will send out further instructions on March 23, 2020 on plans for April and May.
- We have requested a special Shared Consultation Council (SCC) Meeting to discuss how to handle Commencement.

These decisions are based on the guidance, and orders from the federal government, the State of California, the Chancellor’s Office, and the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (County). Here is a synopsis of what we know impacts community colleges.

**From the Federal Government (see attached flyer)**

Partial list applicable to community colleges:

- Work or engage in school From Home whenever possible.
- Avoid Social Gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts – Use Drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options.
- Avoid Discretionary Travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
- Do not Visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

**From the California State Governor and the Chancellor’s Office:**

*The governor on Sunday, March 15 issued guidance* on protecting our state’s most vulnerable citizens. He asked anyone 65 years old and older, and those with compromised immune systems, to practice home isolation. He also called for bars, nightclubs and wineries to close, and for restaurants to focus on takeout services. *Click this link to watch Gov. Newsom’s update on the state’s response to COVID-19* (Please note: the update begins about 13 minutes into the video).
On Friday, March 13, Gov. Newsom signed an executive order ensuring state funding for K-12 schools even in event of physical closure. Also on Friday, he issued guidance to state workers hurt by COVID-19. More information can be found here. The California Senate has canceled all hearings this week, while the Assembly is continuing to hold them on a more limited basis.

San Francisco and five other Bay Area counties (Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo and Santa Clara) are ordering people to stay home except for essential needs.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges today approved an emergency measure that provides the state chancellor with additional authority to help colleges continue to provide educational services to students. The measure provides the state chancellor with direction to take all appropriate actions, including by executive order, to allow the continued education of community college students during the period of emergency proclaimed by Gov. Gavin Newsom earlier this month. Read the full press release here.

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley is in continued discussions with the Governor’s Office, higher education leaders and the Chancellor’s Office executive staff and has requested the following actions of California community college leaders:

- Substantially limit all in-person interaction on campuses through June.
- Continue to move instruction to remote learnings platforms.
- Consider reconfiguring all commencement ceremonies and pinning ceremonies to limit event size or move to a virtual format.
- Cancel, postpone or move to a remote format all events, large meetings or conferences for the remainder of the year. This includes moving public board meetings to a remote format.
- Institute remote working protocols for eligible employees in consultation with local bargaining units.
- Consider the strong possibility of a slowdown in the state’s economy as you review on-going expenditures.

On March 17, 2020 we received this from Chancellor Oakley:

**College Campus Closures**

Neither the Governor nor the Chancellor’s Office has mandated the full closure of college campuses. In one case, the County of Riverside, college campuses have been required by local health officials to close. (San Diego County has also mandated certain actions March 31, 2020 see below). Unless and until the Governor, the Chancellors Office or local public health officials issue a mandate to close your college campuses then you are not required to do so. Local boards may choose to adjust the Spring break schedule, close temporarily to prepare to shift to remote instruction or for other reasons, but at this point you are not compelled to close. The Governor is directing us to continue to provide instruction and to follow the guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for colleges and universities (attached). If you fall into Scenario IV then you are required to close. In addition, many colleges operate child care facilities. The Governor has asked that we take practicable measures to keep child care facilities open, even if the instruction component of the center is disrupted.

**Reducing Person-to-Person Exposure**

The CDPH has issued guidance which identifies the reduction of person-to-person contact as a key strategy to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. For the purpose of college operations the Chancellor’s Office is advising all colleges to reduce operations on college campuses to a minimum and to move in-person instruction to remote
learning platforms immediately. We also advise that you institute teleworking protocols except for essential personnel. For workers age 65 or older, the Governor is requiring that those workers stay home and telework, except for essential personnel. It is important to recognize that through your emergency planning processes, local boards and CEO’s can determine who fits the category of “essential personnel.”

Continuation of Instruction
I appreciate all of the work that you are doing to move all in-person instruction to remote learning platforms. We recognize that this is not easy and we are working to provide you as much support as possible. It is critical to student success, the local and state workforce and the health of our system, that we do everything possible to maintain the continuity of instruction, keep students enrolled and provide them the means necessary to succeed. The Chancellor’s Office is working with licensing and accrediting bodies to provide us the flexibly necessary and we are working to secure flexibility in the use of existing funds and additional financial support to help you. On Friday, March 20th at 9:00AM, my office will host a webinar which will include a panelist from ACCJC to specifically address accreditation concerns. We are also working with the Governor’s office to request modifications to clinical program requirements that impact nursing students. For Career Education programs that require hands-on instruction or competency demonstration, I ask you to do everything possible, within the guidance provided by the CDPH, to provide the instruction necessary. In the case where a local public health office has ordered the closure of the college campus, do everything possible to provide for a work around to maintain the continuity of instruction. The Governor has specifically asked that we do everything within our means to help students complete their educational goals. If you are experiencing specific issues with licensing or accrediting bodies that prevent you from completing the instructional requirements for certification or licensing, please communicate those to Executive Vice Chancellor Marty Alvarado.

We will have more updates soon, but I wanted to address these now as many of you have raised similar concerns. The webinar information was sent to all of you via calendar invite, but you can also find it below. I encourage you to join and share the webinar with your staff.

From the County and the Order is effective until March 31, 2020:

- All public or private schools, colleges, and universities shall not hold classes or other school activities where students gather on the school campus.

- All public or private “gatherings,” as defined in section 20 below, are prohibited. All non-essential gatherings of any size are strongly discouraged.

- “Gathering” is any event or convening that brings together 50 or more people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, theater, church, casino, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.

We understand there are many unanswered questions about our instruction and our operations for the rest of our spring semester. Our leadership team is gathering input, planning, and taking necessary actions for moving our college forward during this extraordinary time. Some of these are heartbreaking decisions.

In all of this, we keep our guiding principles at the center: taking care of our students continuity of education and ensuring our employees health and financial wellbeing. It is situations like these that really demonstrate how inequity impacts students. (see attached from the Hope Center)

BTFP_Covid19

We understand this doesn’t answer all our questions, and we promise you we are working through these challenges as quickly as we can. We have also been assured by Vice President Hall that payroll will be on time March 30, 2020.
Thank you for your patience as we move through these difficult questions and thank you for helping us continue our mission to serve our students.
We appreciate your notes, questions, and concerns. We appreciate all you are doing, and we know this is stressful, difficult, and uncertain. We hope you will continue to work with us to make this as smooth as possible for our students and for each other. Thank you.

With respect,

Kindred

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Vulnerability is our most accurate measurement of courage.

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