

Things to Know - Thursday, March 19, 2020

Kindred Murillo

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Importance: High

Good morning @SWC Professionals,

It has been a challenging few days filled with passionate responses from our students and employees. Yesterday, we announced the transition to fully online classes for the rest of the spring semester, and that we are creatively working on how to proceed with labs, Career Education classes, and other studio classes.

We are meeting to decide what the new guidance and decisions mean for our employees, their return and their work for the rest of the semester. At this time, we are planning for April and May, and we are anticipating many of us will work remotely through May. [We scheduled a special virtual Shared Consultation Council at 10:00 a.m. Friday, March 20, 2020 to discuss commencement.](#) All meetings are being conducted virtually.

We will also work on establishing which employees must return to campus to continue their vital onsite work. **The entire district will continue to work remotely the week of March 30 – April 3, 2020.** During the week of March 30, 2020, administrators and managers will identify which employees can **return starting April 6, 2020.** Social distancing and guidance will be strictly followed for essential employees. Deep cleaning of the SWC sites continues and should be complete by then.

All student workers will be paid through the end of May, when our spring semester ends, for their scheduled hours. If you have a student worker in your office, please reach out to them and let them know. You will receive additional guidance on timecards, signatures, etc.

Each day the leadership team is in awe as we see so many of our tenured and adjunct faculty and our classified professionals working and supporting each other to meet the educational needs of our students. The sensitivity everyone has displayed to the stress our students are feeling is unifying and inspiring.

Again, we thank you for keeping our education and services accessible during this rapidly evolving public health crisis.

While we are all dedicated to serving our students during this time, I understand many of you are wondering what this means for you as a Southwestern College employee. We want to recognize the stress and uncertainty that this puts on you, our employees.

For now, we are asking employees to prioritize their self-care and the health and safety of their families. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in San Diego County continues to evolve. That's why one of the most important things you can do right now is to take care of yourselves and stay home to help flatten the curve.

[Link to Johns Hopkins Interactive Map](#)

You can view the special county health department website for more information about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our communities: <http://coronavirus-sd.com/>. I really encourage you to stay informed about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). [The new reports are now noting that younger people are also vulnerable...](#)

Younger Adults Make Up Big Portion of Coronavirus Hospitalizations in U.S.

New C.D.C. data showed that nearly 40 percent of patients sick enough to be hospitalized were aged 20 to 54. But the risk of dying was significantly higher in [older people](#).

[Link to New York Times Article](#)

We are facing new restrictions and challenges with each day, and we will continue with our unwavering commitment to our students and our employees. Please make sure you check our SWC Website for updates. There are resources for students and college employees plus updates.

[Link to SWC Website for Information](#)

Thank you for working with us to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are in this together.

I end this email with a poem sent this morning by Trustee Cazares...brought tears to my eyes...

*From a Facebook Group:
And just like that...*

You build normalcy with bricks of chaos

You relieve your entire student staff of their jobs

You watch their lives fall apart, you provide comfort, you help them feel safe, and heard

You express to watery eyed students, that these are-see you soon times instead of forever salutations

You expedite the residence hall close down process

You create close down verbiage, move out forms, and a schedule to close all halls

You calm, encourage, and uplift your RD staff- because WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS

You provide peace to the worried parents, a space to vent for the angry parents, you make no promises to the demanding parents

You explore new ways to mitigate the suffering, and find new ways to celebrate the yet discovered new opportunities

You watch senior athletes take pictures around campus with heavy hearts and worried eyes

You get pulled from meeting to meeting making decisions based on who has extenuating circumstances over the students who are just as important but still have to go

You find a way to get computers to students who do not have one- so they can actually be an online student

You answer international phone calls from parents, who are desperately trying to find the quickest safest way to get their child home

You listen to begging students asking any and everyone to help save their commencement ceremonies.

You realize you are stronger than you ever knew you could be

You realize you that all the soft skills you have learned along the way have officially been used

You realize you are doing all you can, and even though this is a challenging time-that it hurts like hell- you find peace in knowing you made a lasting impact on the quality of the student life experience.

You smile through the tears, and learn to be okay with right now not being okay.

You say temporary goodbyes to this chapter, but prepare for hello's that await on the next page.

Today was a very hard day, but I did it. In this very challenging time, please remember how very strong you are.

Respectfully,

Kindred

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Vulnerability is our most accurate measurement of courage.

Brené Brown

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