



March 26, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

What an extraordinary time this is! Like so many, I am deeply saddened watching the rapid impact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on our communities, and world, and contemplating what exactly is going to be the “new normal.”

Spring break, once a time for getaways and gatherings of family and friends, is a whole new experience this year, with virtual happy hours, closed parks and beaches, strong travel advisories (or bans), and sentiments of being stir-crazy. The impact this crisis is having on all of us is profound. Yet, through it all, we have pulled together as a community to respond.

I want to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to the massive effort of converting our District to a totally remote operation. I deeply appreciate your willingness to find new ways to serve our students so they can continue to pursue their education, even as we hunker down at home to protect ourselves and others.

The health and safety of our students, employees and the community continues to be our top priority. That is why the District is strictly adhering to Gov. Newsom’s stay-at-home order and we are keeping our campuses closed at this time, except for a small group of essential employees necessary to protect and maintain our facilities and assets.

We are diligently monitoring the situation and are communicating with state agencies and institutions to plan our continuing response and ensure timely communication. In addition, our District is joining with the state leadership and other California community colleges to strongly advocate for regulatory and financial relief to mitigate the impact that this crisis is having on our budgets and our students.

While we do not know exactly what our environment will be like when this emergency ends, we do know that our community will look to us – as they always have – to provide the training that will be key to the economic recovery of East County and the state. We

will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever before, with even more flexibility to provide the education and training that our students need to thrive.

I hope you take time to decompress, to get out in nature around your neighborhood, to stay in (virtual) touch with friends and relatives, and enjoy the new pace of life that shelter-in-place has abruptly created.

I am deeply grateful for the work you are doing in these challenging times. Take care and stay healthy!

*Lynn*

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