



Much to be Grateful for this Thanksgiving  
November 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Like so many other traditions and special occasions this past year, the celebration of this Thanksgiving will be far different than usual. Instead of large gatherings with family and friends, some of whom have traveled to join the celebration, we are being encouraged to stay home and limit gatherings to just a few people – or to celebrate virtually. Whatever your Thanksgiving traditions may be—watching football, waiting in long lines for the Black Friday deals, binge watching your favorite movies, or enjoying quiet time with family and close friends—this year will be unlike any other.

Even though the pandemic continues to impact our lives, we still have many reasons to be thankful. Signs are positive that COVID-19 vaccines may soon be authorized, paving the way for us to bring our students and events back to campus in 2021. In addition, it is heartening for the more than 1,150 American community colleges that one of our own—the future First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, a community college instructor in northern Virginia—will soon be occupying the White House.

We are grateful that our colleges have an unwavering commitment to equity and anti-racism, as demonstrated recently during two racist, hateful attacks in virtual meetings. Once again, we came together to support those who were the targets of these horrific actions and to condemn those who showed their contempt for the values we share.

Our community is also grateful as we are the epicenter of hope for so many who depend on us for their future. Our colleges have tenaciously focused on supporting students through these difficult times, including distributing food and support for basic needs, hosting virtual support activities, expanding wireless access on campus, and numerous outward gestures to show our students that we care about them.

Although we will be gathering in a much different way this Thanksgiving, I hope you remain connected with family and friends, even if it is with a Zoom call instead of an in-person visit.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and continue to enjoy the special foods and traditions that make this a special holiday.

I am thankful for all of you! Be safe and stay healthy.

***Lynn***

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