

Special Edition: Coronavirus Communication 7

March 18, 2020

Good Evening:

I have had great feedback from around the College with people sharing how the training and telework experience is going. Two people shared great ideas to support our efforts. I encourage everyone to share with me any ideas that can help us work better in this new virtual environment or things you may see that we could be doing to support our students, community members and each other.

Suggestion 1:

“To enhance interoffice communication, Google Hangouts has a feature that lets you know when a contact is available online. It is a very helpful tool when contacts use it when teleworking.

If you're not familiar, it's a simple two-step process:

Step 1: Go to Google Hangouts settings.

Step 2: Check the box with, "Show when you were last active".

And voila, that's it!”

Suggestion 2:

This morning I received an email that shared, “During the COVID-19 crisis, the county could be short of hospital space. We could use school or university gymnasiums for hospital beds and/or clinics that make services and/or testing more accessible.” This suggestion prompted me to make sure that we had completed the process for the Red Cross using Ballenger Field House for a crisis. We had not. A Red Cross representative will be on campus tomorrow to take a tour of the facility and complete the MOU process.

I appreciate all of the ideas, comments, and suggestions. Please continue to email them to me.

I received positive news from the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) this afternoon about the Michigan Reconnect Grant Program. Remember, this funding supports our Sixty by 30 efforts that we have been discussing. The Michigan Legislature has finalized action on the two bills that creates the

Michigan Reconnect Grant Program and will be presented to Governor Whitmer shortly. Also, other bills that can supplement the funding needs of community colleges are being finalized as well.

Nichole Woods, Director of Accounting and Budget and Doris Stromer, Livingston Center and Southern Lakes Branch Center Site Director, have been selected to be a part of Cohort V of the MCCA Leadership Academy. The Leadership Academy is a cohort-based, nine-month learning journey designed for faculty and mid-to-senior level community college administrators who are ready to move into a higher level of leadership.

Yesterday's Virtual IT Training was a success yesterday. We had 99 people attend. The decision has been made to offer it again. An email was sent out this afternoon on how to join the training tomorrow at 10 a.m. Please attend if you have any questions. Below is the link to join the training session.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/402395957> Meeting ID: 402 395 957

Unfortunately, an article was printed in the Flintside digital journal at noon today and subsequently posted on social media about MCC that was not factual. The article states that MCC received a \$422,000 grant from the Educational Credit Management Corporation Foundation (ECMC) to extend housing, food, childcare, and transportation support to students through the COVID-19 crisis. Actually, the MCCA received \$442,000 to provide training to a network of MCCA colleges, including MCC, in an effort to improve student completion and success by addressing economic instability factors of food, housing, transportation, childcare insecurities and other basic needs.

A few Executive Cabinet members are attending Dan Kildee's virtual Town Hall Meeting tonight. I will be able to share updated information tomorrow about the federal response to the crisis.

Looking Forward,

Dr. Beverly

Beverly Walker-Griffa, Ph.D.
President
Mott Community College