

Special Edition: Coronavirus Communication 9

March 20, 2020

Good Evening:

On Monday we officially start teleworking and telelearning as a College. I had the opportunity this morning to share at the virtual Michigan Community College Association Spring Board of Directors meeting all the preparation that has taken place to position the College to be successful. It was amazing to share with the other community college presidents and trustees all the proactive actions that have taken place to ensure we are ready for this new experience. I picked up some good information about how other community colleges were handling the crisis. I will share the information learned on Tuesday to the Executive Cabinet for discussion.

I have heard from several people that our CTL Trainers and our IT staff have been tremendous. They have gone above and beyond to get the job done. I want to say thank you for the dedicated support you have given to this College during this challenging time. The College would not be ready to launch virtually if it had not been for the commitment each one of you has shown to ensure that we have the tools we need to be successful. All I can say is, "Bravo!" I am giving you a standing ovation. Earlier today our Institutional Advancement area presented the CTL Trainers with "Mott Swag" for a job well done!

Here is our week by the numbers:

943 - MCC Student Wellness Check-In Survey Responses facilitated by the Student Success Division

15 - Student technology training help sessions

63 - Students attended technology training help sessions

5 - CTL Techs weekend session, 160 participants

11 - CTL Prep Week sessions, 196 participants

5 - Uploaded videos of previously recorded sessions, 522 views

130 - Originally scheduled online courses for Winter

725 - Newly transitioned courses to online or alternative instructional method

120 - Courses that cannot transition to an alternative instructional method

17 - Courses pending transition at the Thumb Correctional Facility

23 - Chromebooks loaned

7 - MiFi Pucks loaned

Here are a few of the suggestions that came in since last night:

Suggestion 1

“Not only are the students trying to cope with a global pandemic, their fears, and isolation, but keeping up their grades in the face of an onslaught of communication and materials from teachers.

It got me thinking: perhaps, there are some guidelines that would be helpful for teachers. For example, teachers might need to be more cognizant if they are over-communicating with students: sending too much too often. Perhaps, they could consolidate, for example, into two main messages a week (just like there are two classes a week, etc.). In those two communications could be the video/email/lesson, etc. They could create a communication plan with students that is streamlined and predictable and err on the minimal side rather than an abundance of communications.

If they are being overwhelmed by not only the current circumstances but our teaching methods, even if they are well-intentioned, this could have a truly detrimental effect.”

Suggestion 2

“Create a fund to which Faculty and Staff can contribute for the financial support of students and their families.”

Suggestion 3

“Is there any way for Mott or the MCCA to look at an immediate donation towards or to purchase healthcare facility supplies? As educators we trained them, supporting them would go a long way.”

Earlier today, I appointed members to the newly created College Academic Calendar Committee. The Committee will recommend a two-year College academic calendar to me that will outline important deadlines, holidays and other essential dates for students and employees. This critical group will review federal and state mandates, Board Policy, College holiday schedules, term requirements, student deadlines and other essential dates to create a two-year College academic calendar that lists all important dates.

The members who have a three-year appointment include:

Jason Wilson, Co-Chair

Michelle Glenn, Co-Chair

Kevin Asman

Wanda Brown

Kristi Dawley

Dawn Hibbard

Melissa Lesiewicz

Rebecca Myszenski

Christy Rishoi
Chad Stirrett
Michele Traver
Sounya Walker
Kirk Yaros

Enjoy your weekend. It promises to be quite chilly. I will update you again on Monday.

Looking Forward,

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