

Special Edition: Coronavirus Communication 14

March 27, 2020

Happy Friday!

I hear that some teams are scheduling virtual happy hours with each other after work today. That's wonderful. I know with all the challenges that we have faced these last two weeks, it is good to blow off some steam together. Enjoy. I am told these types of events are actually happening across the nation as we adjust to the new normal of staying home and staying safe! On Monday, I will be hosting my first virtual birthday bash for our March birthday celebrants! It should be fun as we get together to spend some time getting to know each other a little better and play a few virtual games.

This morning I hosted a virtual Real Talk and had 112 participants in the meeting. The students had great questions as they sought to understand and verify that we "got it." There were lots of questions from students who were not able to start back to class on March 23 due to the class/clinical being structured for face-to-face instruction only. Students asked about registering for future classes, graduation/commencement activities, dropping classes, cleaning the buildings before we return, computer and internet access, emotional supports, tutoring options, pass/fail grading, virtual testing options, and many other issues. Several stated that they were thankful to have an opportunity to ask questions to clarify. Some gave shoutouts to their faculty members who were doing great jobs during this uncertain time.

We had two students who wanted to share what they thought were best practices for adjusting to the change. Two faculty members have distributed evaluative surveys to their classes to gain student feedback on what's working and what's not so they can adjust. One faculty member is holding group sessions after the class to allow students to ask questions and get a better understanding of the material. It was a really great morning listening to the students' questions, concerns and thank yous.

Yesterday's All-Employee College Meeting recording has been completed by IT and you can watch it again at the below link.

<https://youtu.be/a03Gw1u6DRc>

I found out today that our Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC) staff will be working next week on creating the Mott Bear Cubs Strong Bridge to the ECLC program. The purpose of the program is to connect and engage our current and interested ECLC families early on so that strong relationships can be built and maintained. Connections will include communicating with virtual interactions to subsidize face-to-face interactions.

Thanks to the Chefs at the Culinary Arts Institute who this morning delivered three racks full of produce, dairy and a case of assorted sized food service gloves to the Mott Eats Pantry. I am sure our students will enjoy the storeroom of food that was emptied for their benefit.

The Chronicle of Higher Education sent me today a set of articles that can support our faculty teaching through this crisis. I have attached the article, [Coping with Coronavirus: How Faculty Members Can Support Students in Traumatic Times](#), to this email for your review.

Below are the suggestions that came in since yesterday.

Suggestion #1

We should continue to support our non tech-savvy faculty with mentorship from ETOM/Mott certified instructors who can assist, guide and support them through this massive change.

Suggestion#1

Employees could establish a PayPal account and send lunches to employees at the local hospitals periodically.

Have a wonderful restful weekend staying home and staying safe!

Looking forward,
Dr. Beverly