

College Council

President's Update

March 12, 2020

### **Coronavirus/COVID Impact and Response**

We know that the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) throughout Oregon is of great concern to our students, staff and community. OCCC is committed to providing a safe and healthy educational environment, but recognizes the way we provide service will shift for a time in response to recommendations from the Governor, Oregon Health Authority, public health officials, Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to help slow the rate of exposure and potential illness.

OCCC has established a Coronavirus Response Team, which along with the Executive Team is meeting in various configurations multiple times a week. We also participate in statewide higher ed meetings regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The state does not recommend that Oregon's colleges close at this time, and Oregon Coast has no plans to close. Winter term final exams will happen next week as planned. We have implemented numerous safety measures with the guidance of the Oregon Health Authority, the Higher Education Coordinating Committee, and the Lincoln County Health Department. These include heightened hygiene and signage, directing employees and students who experience illness to not come to campus, and web and email updates to students and staff. Instruction has been working with faculty on instructional contingency planning, and for administrative functions we are ensuring we are cross-trained on essential services and projects.

After Spring Break, you may see more courses shifting to online instruction where feasible. For traditional classroom courses, in addition to reminders about hand-washing and other hygiene practices, students should be spread out across the classroom, so that all of us can try to maintain a social distance of at least 3 feet from one another. This applies to our meetings as well, and until the situation improves, we will use Zoom for larger gatherings (like CoCo).

In addition to the Governor's executive order banning all mass gatherings of more than 250 people between now and April 8, we will be using the 3 feet of separation for meetings, significantly curtailing college-sponsored travel and canceling certain non-essential events, both on campus and off. These measures are intended to limit the spread of COVID 19 and protect our students, our faculty, our staff, and our community.

Please watch your emails and our website for additional information. We put out a video yesterday with much of the info contained in this update and what individuals should be doing. This situation is fluid and things are changing with each passing week. Circumstances like these can give rise to rumors. We are committed to sharing factual and timely guidance grounded in science and based on practices established by the Oregon Health Authority, the Centers for Disease Control, and our local Lincoln County health and emergency preparedness officials. Many people have asked how they might help, and I believe this culture of calm, seriousness and factual information is something we can all support.

Thank you, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Contact me and the rest of our Coronavirus Response Team at [cvrt@oregoncoastcc.org](mailto:cvrt@oregoncoastcc.org)

## **Pearls of Wisdom 2020**

On a much brighter note, Pearls was an amazing success. Thank you to the many people who contributed their time and talents. It was a lovely evening, with engaging classroom activities, and wonderful student stories (in-person and via video). We met our outcomes of introducing new potentially philanthropic minded community members to our work (“friend-raising) and we also outdid our \$\$ fundraising goals significantly. In 2019 we raised \$17,000 to support students and programs, and this year it appears we raised slightly over \$30,000. We welcome participation in Pearls 2021, it is a great way to support students with their financial challenges.

## **Budget Development**

Across Oregon, the community colleges were facing challenging budget scenarios, even before the likely triggering of recession by recent events. Many colleges are cutting programs and reducing staff, related to year over year drops in enrollment. Thankfully, due in large part to our addition of programs like Navigate, matriculation, dual credit, teaching and now welding, OCCC has seen modest growth rather than enrollment drops. However, like other colleges, we have the challenge of state funding that has not kept up with actual costs. We are also funding duplicate administrative costs associated with decoupling from PCC and migration to our new ERP (enterprise resource platform). Our goal is to contain costs without impacting quality, so we are examining everything. The Board of Education will consider a tuition and potentially technology fee increase. Student Forums will occur after Spring break.

## **My Oregoncoast**

This is the name for our new portal associated with the new ERP. Myoregoncoast encompasses the functions that were in SharkNet, plus new functionality. Please be on the lookout for communication and orientation to myoregoncoast soon after Spring break.