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Subject: President's Update to CoCo, May 15 2020
Date: Friday, May 15, 2020 9:56:02 AM
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This email provides the President's CoCo Update for May.

1. Appreciation: I'll start again by sharing my appreciation for your work and dedication to students and each other as we navigate the difficult waters of the health, social and fiscal crisis resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. Thank you all for your care, your flexibility and creativity, and positive attitudes. This month, I would like to add a specific call out to two of our areas: technology and SBDC. Spencer & Alex have been very responsive and patient to everyone's needs, and at the SBDC, Dave, Wendy and Misty have been of incredible support to Lincoln County small business, who have been hit very badly and are really struggling. In the five months of this year, SBDC has exceeded most of the levels of service met in the entire last year.
2. Pandemic conditions & response: The OCCC CVRT (Corona Virus Response Team) continues to meet bi-weekly, to monitor our response and operations, and make recommendations to me as to any adjustments we need to make. As of Monday, May 15, Lincoln County will enter Phase 1 of Oregon's reopening framework. Higher Education is still operating under the Executive Order that closes our buildings to the public, and restricts Face2Face instruction. So as of now, the Phase 1 reopening will impact our personal lives but not our operations. As far as our personal lives, better sources of information about reopening are on the Governor's page As of Monday, May 15, Lincoln County will enter Phase 1 of Oregon's reopening framework (<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>). Lincoln County specific info is at <https://www.co.lincoln.or.us/hhs/page/reopening-lincoln-county>. Regarding higher education in Oregon, a framework for Phases 1,2 & 3 has been developed by cross-sector (public/private, 2,4, 4+) workgroups in conjunction with the HECC and Oregon Health Authority. I anticipate approval of the framework (with modifications that might come out of consultation process) possibly as soon as next week. Phase 1 & 2 still have our buildings closed to the public, with F2F resuming in very limited conditions where CDC/OHA recommendations can be followed. Our Office of Instruction update can share their planning for summer and fall at OCCC.
3. Fiscal: Regarding our fiscal circumstances, by now I hope you have all read the college update I sent out on May 1st. I am deeply disappointed that we must reduce our expenses to this degree so soon on the heels of earning independent accreditation, and particularly that we have had to reduce hours and in two cases eliminate positions. At OCCC we have four elements interacting that make it absolutely essential that we be proactive in our fiscal planning and implementation. They are:

- a. 1) planned for increases in employee compensation along with expenses of the multi-year shift to an independent institution with effective and up-to-date automation & technology systems,
 - b. 2) planned for but outside of our control, and at higher levels than anticipated, escalation in benefit costs particularly PERS and medical,
 - c. 3) Pandemic related drops in revenue and increases in expenses for late Winter and the Spring terms, expected gains were not realized.
 - d. 4) Significant pending reductions in state support for Community Colleges, potentially in the 15-20% range for next year, and anticipated to continue into the following 2 years.
4. CAREs act: we just recently finished the work with PCC to establish an agreement for the \$\$ to be transferred to OCCC. Our total award is approximately \$180,000 which is disappointing as the next smallest award was TBCC at approximately \$300,000. 50% of the award is a pass through to students for emergency grants, and Chris Ousley led a committee to establish methodology. We are only now receiving the student \$\$, of about \$90,000, which is to be distributed to students over a year. The other 50% is for “institutional costs related to Covid response” and we have not yet received those monies or more specific guidance as to how it can be used. The CAREs funds are already accounted for in our budget planning for this year and next. We are assuming that technology and costs to move instruction on-line will be allowable under the rules. Expenses must have occurred after March 13 (when the national emergency was declared.)
5. Optimism and hope: I’ll end with my closing statement from the May 1 memo: “In the midst of all this, I would like to close by reminding us there remain many reasons to be hopeful and optimistic for the future. OCCC has survived worse, and together we have accomplished so much for students and the community, especially our very recent achievement of independent regional accreditation. Our independent status has permanently increased our ability to respond to local needs. We did not anticipate that local needs would include response to a pandemic, but independence has made us stronger in that response as well. We are also in the midst of implementing new systems to enable us to accomplish our work in better ways. By focusing on becoming more efficient in terms of operational processes and more effective with student and employee outcomes, the new normal could be even better than the old normal. Thank you all for what you do every day for our students (however remote they are just now) and our community, and the ways you are supporting them in this strange new world. “

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