

Dear LSC Community:

We are now well along with Fall semester 2021, can you believe it? This fall looks a bit differently than we thought, but we are here: we are serving students, and we are extremely busy! We have great folks working on all levels: from making certain students are on track for success to ensuring that our faculty have everything they need to create a great learning experience, that our campuses are up to date and providing a healthy environment for working and learning, and that our continuing efforts to keep our COVID numbers as low as possible are in place. See <https://www.lsc.edu/coronavirus/> for details including masking requirements for our entire community.

As you already know, LSC is a part of the Minnesota State system of colleges and universities. As such we are required to adhere to the terms and conditions of work as provided in our contracts that are negotiated through the state. While LSC does have some autonomy to provide services, academic programming, and so forth; we are also bound by Minnesota State system policy, which must also comply with the State of Minnesota regulations. These are usually determined through the Office of Management and Budget (MMB).

Why am I telling you this? Well, the latest requirement from MMB is [HR/LR Policy #1446](#) requires that all state workers, including student workers and our customized training faculty, must now show proof of vaccination or undergo weekly testing. Those students who are not required to show proof of vaccine or weekly testing are highly encouraged to get vaccinated. In fact, LSC is still offering incentives to students who get fully vaccinated. **Contact financial aid at: studentfa@lsc.edu.**

Please understand that for many folks, this policy is simply one of the requirements of employment. For some, it is an irritating inconvenience, but they comply anyway. For others, this can be a triggering event, and it may take some time to work through deeply held feelings and emotions. While I cannot change the policy or ignore the policy, I can ensure that our HR department team (for employees) and Dean of Students (for students) will work with everyone to explore every possible avenue to comply with the requirement in a manner that can meet an individual's needs and the safety needs of the larger campus community.

Even as we have much to celebrate this year and have many happy successes, we are living through quite stressful times. If any of you are experiencing emotional reactions or simply need to talk with someone, I encourage you to turn to your colleagues, friends, family, and spiritual practices for comfort and guidance. Students, please seek additional details from our [LSC counseling services](#). **Employees may also consider contacting the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) that provides free, confidential support for employees and their families any time; call 1-800-657-3719 or 651-259-3840.**

We can do this, LSC!

Now I want to reiterate a few things from the latest LSC newsletter:

- Affinity Plus Credit Union will celebrate its grand opening on Thursday, September 23 at 11:00 a.m.
- Student Success Day is Wednesday, September 29, 9:00 am. to 4:00 p.m., with keynote speaker John Kriesel at 11:00 a.m. in the LSC Commons.
- Men's Soccer vs. Riverland rescheduled to Sunday Sept 19 at 2pm, Egerdahl Field.
- Renowned horror film experts and authors Kelly Florence (LSC communications faculty) and Meg Hafdahl will discuss their latest book, The Science of Serial Killers, Thursday, September 30 at 11:00 a.m., at the Erickson Library. Books will be available for purchase.
- All students, faculty and staff, lock down your login to protect your information and the keep the college safe by enrolling in [Multi-Factor Authentication](#) by October 1. Visit the Technology Help Desk at M145 for assistance.
- A flu vaccination clinic for LSC employees and their families is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in room C270. Employees can [sign up online](#). Walk-ins are welcome.
- Congratulations once again to the [Going There podcast](#) for being selected as a finalist for the podcast competition through Catalyst!

Have a great day. Be safe, be well, be kind.

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
Lake Superior College

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers -- [More about pronouns](#)