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Subject: Campus Update April 16

Dear LSC Community:

Well, we have reached the end of another busy, and very quiet, week as an online College. I personally have much to reflect upon these days, as April is my birthday month. As with all of you celebrating birthdays or other milestones, I am sad that my wife and I cannot join our families and friends in one of our more traditional "birthday bash" parties. In my family, we celebrate all of the monthly birthdays together, with April and May being our "biggest bash ever." With friends scattered around the country and the globe, we often make travel plans and fun meet-ups in various locations. But for this April 2020, we pop into Zoom, we use the phone, we send cards and gifts to each other. Right, that's not quite the same, yet we are still connected, still in touch, and very much mutually supportive.

That is also what we, your Lake Superior College family, strive for: keeping each of you connected and supported, keeping you informed, and keeping you on track to finish your spring semester. And the very good news, dear LSC students: we are getting some help from the federal government as well.

In the next few days, all of you will hear more about the CARES Act, and how each college and university in Minnesota will distribute some monetary relief for students. Our team at LSC is working hard right now to get these funds and the award plan in place before the end of this month. Stay tuned to the website <http://lsc.edu/coronavirus> for more information. And students, please watch your emails, cell phones, and other devices for more information regarding your award.

More good news: we continue to move forward with plans for summer and fall semester. We will likely be 100% online this summer and likely primarily online in fall. It all depends on the Governor's stay home order as well as our LSC care and caution in adding face-to-face components to the schedule. Right now, I am asking that our Contingency Planning Task Force, Student Senate Leaders, and some key campus leaders to meet soon to draft a "re-entry" plan for moving our campus safely and carefully, and in staged steps, toward limited face-to-face instruction. Keep in mind, it isn't as simple as opening a classroom and teaching a class. Bringing more people back to campus means more need to be aware of physical distancing, management and cleaning of the facility, more access to various student and employee services, and more people who need to be on campus to handle these classes and services.

Phasing in our face-to-face teaching, learning, and working environment will take good cross-campus planning. We need great College-level thinking. And I know we can do this!

I will close this update with a few lines from a very interesting old book called *Physics as Metaphor*, by Roger S. Jones:

“It is for us to decide whether it shall be our dreams or our nightmares that will come to pass. ...The hidden potentiality of the human mind and our collective imaginings is staggering. It is for us to decide to use that potentiality, that creative imagination, for the betterment of the world, not for its destruction” (p. 202).

We continue to persevere. We continue to thrive within the COVID-19 context in which we find ourselves. We will use our potentiality and creative imaginations to shape and create our future. We will imagine amazing things and make our best dreams come to pass!

Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine.

Pleasant dreams!

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



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