

From: Rogers, Patricia L

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 11:14 AM

To: LSC-Campus-Employees <LSC-Campus-Employees@lsc.edu>; LSC-Student Senate <senate@lsc.edu>; LSC-Campus-Faculty <LSC-Campus-Faculty@lsc.edu>

Subject: Campus Update

Dear LSC Community:

Happy Friday, May 22, 2020. It has been quite a week! We celebrated the resilient LSC Class of 2020, held a zoom pinning ceremony for graduating nurses, received the news that we could open up limited face to face classes (more details to come next week), began implementing our plans for opening limited student services, heard announcements about big changes in Duluth-area industries, and this morning we announced the new Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs.

I want to take this opportunity to publicly and sincerely thank Hanna Erpestad for her willingness to step into the interim role as VPASA. This has been an unusually challenging year with many moving parts and changes, compounded by the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on higher education. Hanna has a history of stepping up to serve LSC, the faculty, staff, and students! Her work as interim VPASA included careful scheduling that saved thousands in our budget, supporting grant work, and moving LSC into the HLC Assessment Academy. This week, LSC graduated over 800 students, with thanks to the impressive work of so many faculty and staff, and the efforts of Hanna and her team. I am so pleased and grateful to Hanna as she has agreed to once again take up her role as the senior Dean, heading up the Liberal Arts and Sciences Division.

This means we will be saying a heart-felt Thank You and Goodbye, to Dr. Jamal Adam. Dr. Adam has served LSC and our Liberal Arts and Sciences with insight, respect, and careful consideration. We will greatly miss Dr. Adam and we know he will be successful in his next adventure in higher education.

These next two or three years promise to be challenging and filled with many decisions based in large part on enrollment and budget trends. This week, we heard difficult news about two of our main industry partners: AAR and Essentia. Unfortunately, we know there will be more challenges ahead for other community and industry partners, due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. These changes will require LSC to be willing, ready, and able to continue to adapt our programming and operations accordingly.

We at LSC have the good fortune to be well positioned to face these challenges: through our newly forming Student Success Team, new and enhanced strategies for outreach/marketing/recruiting, and through the strength of our team of Deans, directors and administrators working closely with faculty, staff, and student leaders. Our new VPASA Dr. Linda Kingston is ready to work with us on these challenges, bringing a wealth of experiences and expertise in Academic and Students Affairs from institutions around the state. She is also well versed in Customized Work Solutions (CWS, CECT), distance and online learning, and leading innovations in teaching and learning. Her insights on planning, budgets, personnel, and academic programming will certainly enhance the work already begun to ensure that LSC rises to its next level of success.

Despite this last challenging year, we have made great progress and we all should be proud of the efforts everyone has made to keep LSC strong and healthy! Enrollment is steadily trending back up as we are seeing gains in both applications and retention, our students feel supported and are progressing

towards completing their programs, we've also been able to support more students through additional support services such as counseling and the food shelf as well as with increased financial support through the CARES Act and fundraising efforts through the LSC Foundation, and we continue to work closely with and support community/regional partners living up to our role as Our Community's College. We know there will be much more we can and must do. We are ready to do more!

Please understand, these next two or three years won't be easy. But we are deliberately and mindfully moving in the right direction, we are doing the right things, and we need to continue our hard work with cheerful flexibility as we build on our success and keep moving forward. We are truly poised for future success.

Now, everyone please enjoy the holiday weekend - you deserve it. 😊

Patricia L. Rogers, Ph.D.
President
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