

Dear LSC Campus community:

We are near the close of our first week “back” to finish spring semester 2020. Most everything has gone well, with faculty, staff, students, and administrators making the adjustment to college life at a distance. In a very few cases, folks still have some struggles to adjust. In any case, we continue to work the plan and make adjustments to schedules, to the building, and to our new routine. We carry on.

While thinking about the differences I observed this week in our community members’ responses to COVID-19, I paged through an old book I have kept in my office since the days when I first became a Dean. The book is entitled “Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much” by Anne Wilson Schaef. The book provides different meditations and quotes for each day of the week, in a sort of diary form. It is meant to give one pause, to take just a few moments to think and ponder. And it helps with focusing oneself during the sweep of these busy and ever-changing days. I usually look at these in random order. Schaef’s entry for March 30<sup>th</sup> seemed appropriate for my musing:

“March 30  
BECOMING

*‘A clay pot in the sun will always be a clay pot. It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain.’ – Mildred Witte Stouven*

“Actually, there’s nothing wrong with being a clay pot. It’s just that all of us have the possibility of becoming porcelain. And it isn’t quite so simple as being fired or not being fired. Some of us explode in the kiln. Some of us collapse before we ever reach the kiln, and some of us develop horrible cracks that seriously threaten our utilitarian value. Yet probably the saddest response is to have gone through the firing and to refuse to become porcelain. All of us have furnaces in our lives. Not all of us glean the lessons from the firing.”

This national crisis has certainly provided plenty of heat in the kiln! Over the last few weeks, I have witnessed many *many* transformations from clay to porcelain. Amazing work! People in our LSC community have stepped up, willing to do whatever is needed to help our students and each other. Newly hired individuals, ready to roll up their sleeves and keep our college strong in its dedication to students and the regional community.

Sadly, I have also observed a few clay pots that refuse to change to the porcelain they could be. But, that situation can change, and transformation is always possible.

This message is really my second call to greatness. If you haven’t already done so, then step up now to be your best self! Focus! Do what you can to support LSC and our students. As I have said many times: what we do *today*, will have serious impact—positive or negative—on the future of LSC. Serving current and potential students through these challenging times is the heart of our business.

Many of us are essential employees and as such are working various schedules on campus. Many are essential employees and working various schedules from home or in some combination of campus and home. **In every case, the point is: we all should be working to our best ability to ensure the success of our students, potential students, and each other.**

Anyone reading this message should understand: the changes in our employees’ schedule is not a paid vacation or sick leave, unless of course they are taking actual vacation or sick leave. Some of our

employees are only able to be on full or partial COVID-19 leave due to their unique work duties or situations, and supervisors have approved that. Our jobs are secure right now, and we expect folks to be engaged in the work assigned to ensure the success of LSC. Keep in mind, there are others out in our community who are not so fortunate.

This is a call to greatness, to be a great member of the LSC community, and to become the best porcelain you can be! Together, we have this, folks!

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