



Mesa Updates: Friday, March 27, 2020

To all of our Mesa College Community:

Happy Friday to all of you, and thank you for all of your hard work to keep a continuum of learning alive and well in this extraordinary time. By now I hope you have had the chance to read Chancellor Carroll's [COVID19 Update #5](#). In it she provides an overview of where SDCCD is now, and some direction for the next few weeks and months. In this message, I will provide the Mesa College impact of our actions.

1) Status of Remote Learning-Spring Semester

It is highly likely that we will be finishing out the spring semester in this online/remote learning environment. We will be following all of the local, state and federal requirements under the current pandemic situation. While no one knows exactly what is to come, evidence suggests that the physical distancing and other measures will continue for some time. At this time, we are proceeding as if the semester will be completed in the current format.

2) Grades, Drops, Transfer... What is Happening

We are working directly with the State Chancellor's Office on finding flexibility for students who need to withdraw, and for potential flexibility to extend deadlines for students to determine their status. A letter was released yesterday giving direction on several grading options. You can read it [here](#). We are now communicating the options so that students have the best information needed to remain in courses, drop courses, and/or be aware of flexibility with deadlines. These issues are not easy to solve; we do not have the authority locally to make changes in our systems, as they impact transfer, financial aid and progress towards completion. We suggest that faculty be in close contact with students regarding their progress and that they communicate to chairs and Deans situations that arise.

3) Addressing Students Needs

The College sent out a survey to students to assess needs, with a focus on technology, but also on other needs. In less than 48 hours we received over 6,000 responses. We are now acting in real time to address as many issues as possible. The CLEAR message is that students are concerned about

their financial resources. Overwhelmingly they have lost jobs, health care, child care and other essential support. While this is not new for our students to have basic needs issues, the situation has greatly increased students' need for finding a way to support themselves and their families. The college is posting resources in real time and reaching out to survey respondents who identified needs. Thank you to Dean Andy MacNeill and our tech crew for helping our students through a laptop loan program, we so appreciate your commitment! Students needing to access to **community resource** information can find it [here](#).

4) Continued Support for Faculty

Thank you to all of our DE liaisons, Cara Smulevitz, Instructional designer Katie Palacios, Todd, Eva, Janue and the amazing **LOFT/LRC** crew that has been supporting all of us as we transitioned so quickly into this new reality. The crew continues to support you and the resources are available [here](#). Thank you as well to the **SDCCD Online Learning Pathways** crew, and our new Dean Brian Weston who had the good fortune to join us just as this situation developed. We appreciate having more workshops, even through the weekends for all of us to learn. Watch your email for notifications and find resources [here](#). Again, please continue to communicate your needs to chairs and Deans as they arise.

It's Spring Break!

We made it to Spring Break, and of course given the level of energy and transition over the past few weeks we understand that many of us will still be working next week. At this point however, it is actually Spring Break...faculty are not expected to teach next week, and students are not expected to be in class or responding to new assignments. Please take this time to take a break, hit pause or catch up, as we will need all of our collective energies to complete the semester.

#WeAreMesa..... #WeGotThis

PrezPam