

From: Gribbons, Barry C
Subject: Campus Update
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Dear Monarchs,

Thank you for your continued hard work in service of our students. Every week I continue to be amazed at your transformation of the college. Keep up the extraordinary work!

I have a few updates to share:

Recovery Plans. Recovery planning, including the planning for returning to in-person instruction and services, is underway. As mentioned in last week's update, this includes a district effort in developing guidelines for colleges. We also will be identifying specific plans for Valley College. I want to express my appreciation for the Incident Command team and WEC for their work on LAVC recovery planning. Both the Incident Command team and WEC met on Thursday to begin conversations. On Monday, I expect that we will receive a draft of the District guidelines. There is a possibility of changes to the Safer at Home Orders in the upcoming weeks. I wouldn't expect these changes to be drastic. Rather, it could include some changes to restrictions and there has certainly been quite a bit of discussion about moving to what the Governor has referred to as Phase 2. Given this, it will be as important as ever to be thoughtful in our planning process to ensure we meet our priorities, first and foremost being the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. I hope to have a more specific update on this in the next week or two. In the meantime, please continue to send ideas and questions to Meredith Stoops to help ensure that our efforts are as well developed as possible.

LAVC Scholarships. Thank you for encouraging students to apply for LAVC Scholarships. The applications have now closed. As Raul mentioned in his email Thursday night, the deadline for Letters of Recommendations is May 7th.

Weingart Foundation Grant. Congratulations to the Family Resource Center on the \$25,000 grant from the Weingart Foundation! And, our gratitude to the Weingart Foundation! The grant will be used for emergency stipends for our student parents. It complements \$5,000 received from Believe in Students and \$3,000 from the Good+ Foundation.

Academic Complex 1 and Academic Building 2. NAC has been selected as the architect for Academic Building 2. We look forward to working with them on both the Academic Complex 1 and Academic Building 2. Planning for both projects is continuing and I want to express my appreciation for both BUGs for their efforts, especially in these times when everyone has limited bandwidth.

Accessing Campus. As a reminder, please contact your department chair to arrange for coming to campus. Also, check with the cleaning schedule to confirm that the building isn't closed for cleaning. Chairs will double check that people aren't accessing the same space within a few days of each other and then let their deans know when their department members will be on campus. Deans will then let the LAVC Sheriff's Department know what the plans are. Lastly, when coming to campus, please let the LAVC Sheriff's Department know as you arrive and when you leave.

Follow up regarding the LAVC All User Message. On Tuesday night I sent a note that one of our colleagues had symptoms of COVID-19. I'm delighted to update you that our colleague does not have COVID-19 and is doing better.

Cleaning Schedule. Our custodians, and custodians district-wide, are modifying their work schedules to engage in professional development remotely for part of their workweek. This will be a great opportunity for them. It also will require the cleaning schedule to be changed. Mike is working with our Facilities team to modify the cleaning schedule and will send out an updated schedule next week.

CARES Act. We have received the initial \$3 million of CARES Act funding for students. I expect that about half of it will be used to provide \$300 per eligible student. This hasn't been finalized yet and the District is still finding out who is eligible for funding. I'll keep you updated as we find out more details.

Virtual Recognition of Graduates. On the Board agenda for Wednesday are items for a Virtual Recognition of graduates. Many thanks to Liz and the district-wide committee for working on this. I know that we would all prefer to celebrate in person. However, given the circumstance, I think that they are developing a good plan. Also, there can still be an opportunity for an in-person graduation when permitted to do so, possibly next year. We will be able to get more information out next week after the Board meeting.

Student Survey. We participated in a student survey, assessing how students are doing in the transition. Overall, I think the survey results point to the incredible amount of work that has gone into the transition. There also are actionable results that will help inform our efforts moving forward. Michelle Fowles and her team are working on the LAVC specific results and an infographic. Keep an eye out for it. Great information! (I'm trying not to steal her thunder with specific results.)

You Tube Town Halls. We have been doing weekly You Tube Town Halls for students. I appreciate Tanya's and Brian Mellblom's efforts supporting them. It has been working out well helping to keep our students informed. This last week Sorangel Hernandez, Margaret Sarkisyan, Michael Gold, and Clive Gordan also showed how to live chat through Cranium Café and other ways for our students to stay connected. This worked out so well, next week Scott Weigand will be showing students how to access Tutoring resources. This is turning out to be a great communication tool and I'm sure that we will want to continue using it even after the pandemic is over. Let me know if you have additional ideas for You Tube Town Halls in the upcoming weeks.

I want to close out the weekly update with an expression of my appreciation again. You are doing amazing work! I couldn't be more impressed with what you've done the last six weeks and I know you are having a huge impact. Please do your best to make the time to take care of yourselves and continue to let me know how I can support you.

Have a great weekend!

Barry

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