

From: [Gribbons, Barry C](#)

Subject: Campus Update: First Day of Fall 2020!

Date: Monday, August 31, 2020 3:33:24 PM

Good afternoon Monarchs,

Welcome to the start of the Fall Semester! Let me begin by expressing my thanks for all the tireless efforts that went into the start of the semester. I think that more effort than ever has gone into the start of this semester and year. Working remotely while remaining committed to our goals of Access, Equity, and Success hasn't been easy. I'm convinced that your efforts are having a tremendous impact. Our enrollment numbers may be one indicator of this impact. As of this morning's enrollment report, headcount was 101 percent compared to last year and enrollments were at 99 percent. The enrollment percent compared to last year is the second highest in the District and 4 percent higher than the District average!

I also want to express my appreciation for all the professional development activities last week, and particularly Opening Day. The discussions we had marked an important step in our journey to being an anti-racist college. Jeanne Owens, Sally Raskoff, and everyone who helped organize the activities and engage in this important work, thank you!

I have a few updates for you as well.

Surface Go Devices. The application for Surface Go devices is open and available through the Student Information System. We expect to begin making awards this week. We don't have an arrival date for them yet, but hope that the 1,850 devices will arrive close to the end of the week. The application process will remain open until all the devices are awarded. More information about applying is available at the [LAVC Coronavirus Student Update webpage](#).

Other Technology and Emergency Grants. The student application for other technology support and emergency grants is open and available through a link to Survey Monkey. Information about the application process also is available at the above link.

Ombudsperson. Annie Reed will be helping the District Human Resources Division for the remainder of the year. We know that she is excited about the new opportunity. We are working on coverage of student discipline and the Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Coordinator responsibilities. In the meantime, if you need assistance, please email ombudsperson@lavc.edu.

Valley Facial Coverings. We will be mailing out your Valley College facial coverings soon. You recently received an email asking you to check your mailing address in the District system. This will help ensure that we get it to you.

Safety Measures. As some people return to campus for the limited in-person instruction of essential workforce training, provide essential services, or work in support of remote learning, I wanted to provide a few reminders:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Per the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Guidance, we strongly urge you to get an influenza vaccination.

- Information about leave benefits related to COVID-19 can be found at the [LACCD Coronavirus Faculty and Staff Update webpage](#).
- Complete a symptom check online prior to coming to campus.
- Wear a facial covering while on campus and wash or replace the face covering frequently.
- Maintain physical distance while on campus, remaining at least 6 feet from others, and avoid congregating.

Thank you again for all your efforts. These are indeed extraordinary times. I know that you are faced with many challenges and doing your best to remain flexible, innovative, and responsive. As a result, I truly believe that your efforts are leading to extraordinary change and achievements for our students. For this, I can never express enough gratitude. Thank you!

Have a terrific new academic year and please let me know how I can support you!

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