



# Connections

*October 15, 2020*

## Welcome to WWCC Connections

As part of a strategic effort to increase the flow of information within the College, Connections will be published bi-weekly. It will contain information of general interest pulled from a variety of sources including meetings of the Board of Trustees, Strategic Leadership Team (SLT), Governance Council, and others.

As French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir wrote, "...to say anything, one must leave out a great deal." Connections is intended to be a cornerstone of increased communication, but it is not designed to be all-inclusive. It is incumbent upon each of us to share information with those in our immediate orbit—to share what is discussed in meetings you attend, or committees to which you belong.

## Enrollment challenges

Enrollment at WWCC has declined by approximately 25% compared with last year. This drop is largely related to the pandemic and consistent with what other colleges are seeing. We are taking aggressive steps to increase enrollment for winter quarter, including accelerating the timeline for registration and advising (see the updated academic calendar on the main website); allowing advising and registration to happen on the same day without a lag; continuing our marketing and outreach campaigns; refining our intake process; and, bringing more employees onto campus to work in their student-facing areas.

## Warrior Flex and virtual instruction

We immediately activated Warrior Flex when a workforce program with hands-on instruction recently experienced a Covid-19 positive test result. Students and staff were moved to online instruction for the duration of the incubation period. The return to campus will occur once the Health Department gives us the all-clear. Until then, everyone was kept safe due to careful planning and swift action.

The move to virtual instruction in numbers: Fall 2019 instruction was 17% online and

83% on-campus/hybrid. Fall 2020 instruction is 70% online, 30% on-campus/hybrid. It has been a team-effort, so we all should take pride in what we have been able to accomplish for our students.

## **State of the College: Save the date**

The State of the College address is scheduled for Thursday, October 29th at 3:30 p.m. It will be presented via Zoom, and will include more detailed information about enrollment, finances, Covid-19, strategic planning, etc. It will be recorded, but there will be a time for questions so I hope that you are able to attend in real-time.

## **WWCC featured**

We were honored to host the Association of Washington Business (AWB) on Oct. 6 as part of their state-wide Manufacturing Week tour. They broadcast live from outside the Water and Environmental Center with all requisite distancing, PPE, etc. I was able to welcome them briefly, and then Dean Jerry Anhorn was joined by two students (one from Welding, one from Energy Systems Technology) for a glimpse at how WWCC prepares the workforce for jobs to keep our local economy strong. The link to that program is here [AWB Manufacturing Tour Week at WWCC](#).

## **Student survey**

WWCC is administering a Media Preferences Survey to all students over age 18 in collaboration with a national organization dedicated to improving communication with students. This survey is free to WWCC, and will run October 14 through November 15. The results will help WWCC better connect with current and future/potential students.

## **Long-range planning**

Preparation is under way for the strategic planning process. Governance Council will play a central role, and broad college-wide participation is encouraged. In preparation for the budget development process and planning for next academic/fiscal year, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning will be leading various program review and prioritization processes. More details to come.

## **Other quick takes**

**VPI:** The VPI search is underway, led by Sherry Hartford and including a 16-person committee, composed largely of faculty and academic administrators.

**Sports:** Athletics is still awaiting direction from the Northwest Athletic Conference leadership team regarding the prospect of winter quarter sports. Direction from the NWAC is anticipated in early November.

Comments or questions? Please email [Connections@wwcc.edu](mailto:Connections@wwcc.edu)