



Connections

November 19, 2020

Thank You from Parents of a Student

The President's office received an email from the parents of one of our students. With their permission, I am sharing the relevant passage, below:

"Since spring, [our daughter] has been taking all her classes virtually due to COVID concerns.... [W]e want to express to you as parents, that we appreciate the hard choices you make to keep our children safe. I know that decisions that you and your staff make are in the best interest of the students, faculty, and staff. Please pass along my gratitude to your faculty and staff for all the extra effort that goes into virtual/distance learning."

It is common to hear from people with concerns, but when someone takes the time to express their gratitude, and to recognize the stellar work that you all are doing, that is extraordinary. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you. Your work is making a difference, and is being recognized by those we serve

Weekly Highlights

First Generation Day was celebrated by WWCC. Employees and students who identify as first-generation college students (whose parents do not have a baccalaureate degree) were asked to write words of encouragement and advice to other first-generation students. Responses were submitted by 8 staff, 3 faculty, and 14 students. A video and social media posts are being developed to share those words of wisdom. Many thanks to Lauren Conrad-Goff and her TRiO team, as well as Margarita Banderas, for their work on this.

Students and staff produced a video montage thanking Veterans for their service, and wishing them a happy Veterans Day on November 11th. <https://youtu.be/OeqKF6acyhY>

Athletics

The Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) Executive Board met and has tentatively

approved colleges to plan for a resumption of athletics during winter quarter. Since that time the pandemic has worsened, so while we remain hopeful that athletics will be able to resume, we also need to maintain our vigilance and prepare for any possibility. If they happen, seasons will likely be shorter than normal; regardless, athletes will not be charged a year of eligibility for playing this year..

State of the College

Thank you to the more than 200 participants in the State of the College address held Thursday, October 29th. I appreciate your engagement, your thoughtful questions, and your ongoing efforts to address the challenges facing WWCC. For those who were unable to attend the address, it was recorded and is available for viewing at [State of the College](#).

Other quick takes

Vice President of Instruction: The VPI job announcement has been published, and applications are already under review by the screening committee.

Student Survey: At the end of spring quarter, students were surveyed about their experience with virtual instruction and the pandemic learning environment. A second survey is being conducted right now to look for refinements to Warrior Flex, and to gather any other information about how to serve our students in the best ways possible.

Leave Reporting Change: Beginning in January, faculty will begin to report any leave taken through the Time and Leave Reporting (TLR) system that is used by classified and exempt employees. There will be training provided, but the effect is anticipated to be minimal. Stay tuned for information from the Payroll office, including training dates and times.

Covid-19: We are continuing to monitor the spread of the virus, and the trends are not favorable. Because WWCC has such well-defined plans for operating under pandemic conditions, these developments are not driving any changes to our operations at the present time. We urge everyone to remember that masking and distancing are required, for the health and safety of everyone, as well as the continued operation of the College.

Board of Trustees: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead

Strategic Planning is set to begin within the next couple of weeks. I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Bob Hughes will be consulting with WWCC and leading/facilitating the planning process. Dr. Hughes has worked with WWCC previously, most recently as the external evaluator for the Project Finish Line project. His brief biography can be found at <http://bobhughes.info/> The strategic planning process will seek to include everyone who wishes to participate, including all employees and students, community members, advisory board members, college Trustees, and Foundation Governors.

Comments or questions? Please email Connections@wwcc.edu