



November 10, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all doing well as we enter the last few weeks of the fall semester. I wanted to take a moment to provide you with a few important college-wide updates.

As one of the top 150 community colleges in the U.S., we have been invited for the fifth consecutive time to compete for the prestigious **Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence**. The \$1 million prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. A team has been reviewing the application process and timeline with plans to invite broad input from faculty and staff, as the College works on completing the Aspen Prize application. In addition, we have been named a **2021 Equity Champion of Higher Education** for our exemplary work in awarding associate degrees for transfer to Latinx students during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Both honors are the result of your commitment to our students, and I want to sincerely thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Next, I would like to share the latest information on our planning and response to **COVID-19**. I also invite you to attend the November 16 board meeting as Dr. Robert Sammis and Dr. Shauna Bigby share a detailed update related to our safe transition to campus as well as the current status of COVID-19 in our region. The board agenda with the Zoom link will be available online this Friday afternoon.

## Uploading vaccination status

Thank you to everyone who uploaded their proof of vaccination by the November 1 deadline. If you have not uploaded proof, you are still able to do so on the Citrus Mobile app under "Report Your Vaccination Status."

All fall semester students who uploaded proof of vaccination by the November 1 deadline became eligible to receive a \$150 bookstore voucher. All winter session and spring semester students have until January 3, 2022, to upload proof of vaccination for eligibility to receive a \$150 bookstore voucher. Students are only eligible to receive one voucher.

## Mandate

As you know, on September 7, 2021, the board of trustees approved the following mandate for students and employees related to vaccination and testing:

As a condition to physically accessing any District building, classroom, library, gymnasium, facility, or other indoor setting, students and employees shall either: 1) present proof that they have been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus; or 2) undergo regular testing for COVID-19 infection and produce proof of negative COVID-19 test results.

A person is considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine

A link to the September 7 full board agenda is available here:

https://www.citruscollege.edu/admin/bot/Documents/Board%20Meeting%20Agendas/2021%20Agendas/09.07.2021.pdf

## Testing

For the remainder of the fall 2021 semester, all on-campus employees and students will continue with the weekly testing protocols, regardless of vaccination status or proof of vaccination submission. The rapid tests are available at no additional expense to the college, with support from the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds.

Since the College implemented mandatory testing for all students and employees coming to campus (regardless of vaccination status) in early September, **a total of 6,412 employee tests** have been completed, with **two (2) positive** test results - confirmed with PCR testing. This represents a test positivity rate for employees of 0.0003119. Regarding our students, **a total of 14,541 student tests** have been completed on campus with **11 positive** test results. Each positive was subsequently confirmed with a PCR test. This represents a test positivity rate for students of 0.0007565.

We plan to continue mandatory testing at least through the end of the fall semester, and then we will reassess the situation following a review of recent campus and countywide data at that time.

All of the safety measures in place at Citrus College are in accordance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Cal/OSHA and the State of California regulations. In addition to our testing requirements, we require daily self-assessments for COVID-19-related symptoms and location check-ins on the CitrusMobile app for students and employees who are on campus; and the wearing of masks when inside any college building. The College will continue to closely monitor and adhere to all state and local public health guidelines and directives.

Once again, I truly thank you all for your support of our students and each other, and for adhering to each of the many safety protocols we have in place to keep students and

employees safe. I've mentioned this in a few meetings, but I believe that it's worth repeating — please continue to be kind to yourself and each other. As a college, we have experienced our share of triumphs and challenges over the last 20 months. Working together, I believe that our best days are ahead.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet hundreds of faculty, staff and students, at both campus events/activities and at my previous Superintendent/President Open Office Hours. I Invite you to attend my next Superintendent/President Open Office Hour scheduled on Tuesday, December 7, from 3-4 p.m. To confirm an appointment, please contact Raquel Perez at <a href="majority:raperez@citruscollege.edu">raperez@citruscollege.edu</a>.

I hope that you have a wonderful week and I look forward to seeing you in the future.

With appreciation,

Greg Schulz, Ed.D.

Superintendent/President