



# eMEMO

Office of the Superintendent / President  
Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

CITRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1899

DATE: July 10, 2020

TO: Citrus College Colleagues

FROM: Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., Superintendent/President

RE: College Update

I hope this memo finds you and your loved ones well as we continue to face new challenges related to COVID-19. Given some recent developments on a national and state level, I want to provide you with an update as relates to Citrus College.

## **International Students**

On Monday, the U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) agency, under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced changes that have the potential to affect approximately 300 Citrus College students with F-1 visas who currently take classes fully online at Citrus College.

Citrus College supports our international students, and we are working diligently to assist them during the 2020-2021 academic year, while also adhering to current health and safety guidelines from state and local health officials. I fully support the state of California's filing of a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on behalf of the California Community Colleges and California State University (CSU) systems. This action challenges ICE's directive that will force international students to return to their home countries if they cannot take in-person classes.

The college is committed to being an open and welcoming campus for all, even if we cannot be together physically. Our goal is to remain in constant contact with our international students and to be a source of support and encouragement during this turbulent time of uncertainty.

## **Fall Athletics**

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Board of Directors approved implementation of its contingency plan yesterday, July 9, 2020, which shifts all fall intercollegiate athletics for the 2020-2021 academic year to the spring. This contingency plan was among three potential scenarios, and each plan was dependent upon the state's COVID-19 reopening plan. The return of athletics in January will only occur if it is safe to do so, and it is a CCCAA decision that will be guided by state and local health guidelines.

While we know that this decision may be disappointing to our students, faculty and staff, this action aims to put health and safety first. Dr. Arvid Spor, vice president of academic affairs, and I will be working with Junior Domingo, dean of kinesiology, health and athletics, to provide support and assistance as we develop new plans in alignment with this statewide decision. Kinesiology, health and athletics division coaches and staff are evaluating athletic and academic plans in order to support our student-athletes during this time and to help them complete their academic goals.

### **COVID-19 Planning**

On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, I participated on an update call with Dr. Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health). In this call with college presidents, Dr. Ferrer stressed that, while colleges should continue to develop plans for a future return to on-campus classes, the current status of COVID-19 currently prevents colleges from fully reopening.

Dr. Ferrer emphasized, that, for at least the next three weeks, colleges should not increase the number of people allowed to go on campus. As such, we are working to follow Dr. Ferrer's guidance by strictly limiting campus access to essential personnel at this time.

In the meantime, the college is proactively taking steps to plan for various reopening scenarios at a date yet to be determined. The COVID-19 Workgroup has met regularly over the past few months to discuss options for an eventual return to campus. Deans and directors, in collaboration with faculty and staff, and the Workgroup, are also developing plans for limited on-campus instruction. All of these options are dependent on state and local guidelines, as well as adherence to protocols from Public Health. Staff members are in regular communication with Public Health officials and are staying up-to-date on the latest news and information. Since it is still unclear how COVID-19 will impact us in the months ahead, the Workgroup is working diligently so that, when we're given the "green light," the college can confidently reopen in a safe manner. The Workgroup will continue to meet through the summer and fall to remain apprised of the ever-changing guidelines, protocols and orders, and develop plans.

Los Angeles County has slowly entered stage three of their five-stage Roadmap to Recovery (<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/RoadmapToRecovery-1.pdf>). However, as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases have increased, closures have again occurred in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. Public Health has a new dashboard with daily updates, recent data trends and additional information, and is available at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/data/index.htm>.

Where we stand:

- Instruction, student services, and campus operations will remain in a remote environment through the fall 2020 semester. Only those deemed as essential personnel will be allowed to access the campus with prior approval. All other requests to be on campus must be approved by divisional vice presidents.

- The annual Citrus College Foundation Scholarship Reception and Donor Appreciation Celebration will be held virtually on Friday, August 14, 2020. This event will provide the college community with the opportunity to recognize our outstanding scholarship recipients, as well as the generosity of our donors. Additional details on this event will be forthcoming.
- Fall convocation will take place virtually on Friday, August 21, 2020. Additional details, including information on our keynote speakers on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion, will be forthcoming.
- Our postponed commencement ceremony is still scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 5, 2020. But, nonetheless, the format and location of the ceremony will be contingent upon state and county clearances. Further updates will be shared under separate cover and will be available on the commencement webpage at <https://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/grad/>.

Please continue to visit the college's COVID-19 webpage at [www.citruscollege.edu/covid19](http://www.citruscollege.edu/covid19), as it contains useful information and updates regarding our status. The COVID-19 Workgroup will provide an update to the board of trustees at their retreat on July 21, 2020. Additional resources for information and assistance include:

- State Chancellor's Office: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Communications-and-Marketing/Novel-Coronavirus>
- State of California COVID-19 Website: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- Los Angeles County: <https://covid19.lacounty.gov> and <https://corona-virus.la>
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>

The Citrus College Board of Trustees and I are committed to the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and the broader community. It is important that we remain adaptable and flexible as the status of the pandemic changes, and national and state decisions evolve. I will continue to share new information with you in the coming weeks and months, and I am confident that we will continue to serve our students to the best of our ability and remain committed to their success.