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Sent: Friday, May 08, 2020 10:34 AM

To: Faculty <Faculty@chaffey.edu>; Staff <Staff@chaffey.edu>; Adjunct Faculty <AdjunctFaculty@chaffey.edu>

Subject: Coronavirus Update - May 8, 2020

Dear Campus Community:

I hope this message finds you and your families well and safe.

As we approach the end of the spring term, I want to thank each of you for your determination and willingness to continue serving our students during the current pandemic. The past two months have not been easy and have been filled with challenges and change.

Whether you have been asked to change the way you teach or the way you perform your daily work, please know that every decision and every change implemented as a result of COVID-19 were done with the health of our students, faculty, and staff as the top priority.

You may wonder what has been done to protect the health and safety of the Chaffey community.

Starting March 17th, the majority of our employees were assigned to work remotely from home and we also moved instruction and student services to remote delivery. A small number of staff members remained working on-site to support critical operations. In addition, some staff members have not worked at all during this time, but have remained at home, in paid status. We made these decisions consistent with our responsibility as an essential critical infrastructure employer in Governor Newsom's order. Despite the amount of work or whether an employee is currently working or not working, Chaffey College has been committed to paying all of our contract employees their full salaries.

For those limited number of employees assigned to come back to the campus, Chaffey College has taken extra precautions to ensure their safety. Among other things, we have retained specialized disinfecting services, and we purchased significant quantities of hand sanitizer, disposable pairs of gloves, and face coverings for employees to use, if needed. The District is also reviewing work

stations and will be posting materials to ensure employees who are working on campus effectively maintain social distancing. As many of you know, securing health and safety items was challenging at the onset of this pandemic because many of the items were only available to those working as first responders. The college still persisted in securing these items so any employee working at our facilities has the protection needed to do their job effectively and safely.

Chaffey has also transitioned all instruction for summer and a majority of the fall classes to be held online. This allows our students to continue to pursue their academic goals while limiting the number of people on campus. For those students who are permitted to return in the fall, it will only be for the classes that cannot be replicated in the on-line environment.

Many of our students are experiencing a different world outside of Chaffey College. They are struggling. This is the state's seventh week of being under a stay-at-home order. More than 4 million Californians have filed for unemployment since mid-March. Thousands are waiting for their funding as systems are backlogged due to demand. The state is facing a \$54.3 billion budget deficit through next summer according to an analysis released yesterday by advisors to Governor Newsom. This is the deepest projected fiscal hole in state history.

While the impacts of diminished funding will have aftershocks across community colleges in the future, we are tirelessly working to keep our community safe, to maintain as many employees as possible, and to support our students now because this reality is hitting them hard. For example, we established fundraisers for Panther Care emergency grants, we are holding drive-thru food pantries, and we have loaned out more than 1,300 Chromebooks to students in need. Through the CARES Act Federal Funding, Chaffey College is providing grants to our most needy students who qualify under the Act. We have also allocated \$200,000 in equity funds for students who met the same criteria, but were not eligible to receive federal funds.

CARES Act Federal Funding also provides \$5.7 million for Chaffey College to use through this challenging time. To date, the college has allocated \$2.7 million of this funding on COVID-19-related expenses. Some of these include:

- Return of fees to students due to COVID-19 disruptions
- Purchase of cleaning, sanitation, and protective supplies
- Distribution of technology for faculty, staff and students such as Chromebooks web cams, and headsets
- Purchase of licensing of software for the transition to on-line learning and remote working capabilities
- Compensation of additional personnel costs associated with working remotely

You may wonder why I am sharing all of this with you today. I know with the constant barrage of information and statistics coming at each of us daily, additional information may feel overwhelming. I share this with you to be transparent.

You may also be wondering how you can help. You can do your part in various ways: if you are teaching or providing support services, please give students a little extra encouragement and assistance to help navigate their pathways. If you are a classified employee who is not working full-time, offer ideas to your manager about how you can be of assistance during this time. For those who earn vacation, take it now so that you are not limited by the caps in the future. On a personal

level, I encourage you to begin planning for your family's personal financial security. What we do now will largely determine our fate in the future. It is a sobering thought to know that we are not insulated from this economy. And while we have compassion for those unemployed, the reality is that we will all be impacted in some way in the coming years.

We can get through this, but we need to be unified. I thank you for your commitment to our students and to each other.

Thank you,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President



Chaffey College