A Foothill College student produced this terrific music video that reflects many aspects of the ‘new normal’ our students are adjusting to right now. Click this link or click the photo above to watch the full video on YouTube.

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS

Gov. Gavin Newsom today gave an update on the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (All daily news conferences are streamed live at noon on his Twitter page and the California Governor Facebook page.) You can find more information on California’s COVID-19 website.

The governor today announced two new initiatives to combat food insecurity. First, CalFresh recipients will receive the maximum benefits for the month of May and also can now use their EBT card to make purchases online at Amazon and Walmart. Find more information about the program, get instructions on how to apply for CalFresh and learn about other emergency food benefits at this website. Gov. Newsom also announced the expansion of the Farm to Family Program, a public/private partnership that will aim to get 21 million pounds of fresh crops to food banks in May.

You can watch the full update here. (Please note: the broadcast begins around the 5:50 mark.)

Gov. Newsom today was interviewed on the Today Show, during which he spoke a little more about possible plans to begin a K-12 fall school year in July.

Riverside County today extended its order requiring residents to wear face coverings when outside and continue practice social distancing through June 19.

Sacramento County today extended its stay-at-home order until May 22, though some restrictions are being lifted.

San Francisco and six other Bay Area counties also loosened restrictions on some activities, while extending the stay-at-home orders until May 31.

SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley has requested a high level taskforce to develop guidance and recommendations for the Chancellor’s Office to use in supporting our colleges as they begin to plan for the reopening of campuses. Los Rios Community College District Chancellor Brian King will chair the taskforce and Shasta College Superintendent/President Joe Wyse will help establish its members. Chancellor Oakley has asked for guidance for continuing instruction in an environment where the system can continue to exercise social distancing; a framework on when to begin to open college campuses; guidance for supporting the classified staff and faculty as we reopen college campuses; recommendations to the Chancellor’s Office on any changes to regulations impacting space utilization that may be required due to the anticipated social distancing protocols; and guidance and recommendations on how to position our advocacy to support the rapid workforce training necessary to get Californians reemployed. Chancellor Oakley has asked for preliminary guidance and recommendations by May 22.
The Chancellor’s Office is committed to keeping all California community college administrators, staff, faculty and students informed as we all navigate this uncertain time. We encourage everyone to routinely check the Chancellor’s Office COVID-19 resource page for ongoing announcements.

The Virtual Town Hall hosted last week by the Chancellor’s Office and Board of Governors is now posted on the Chancellor’s Office YouTube page.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION
The California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) offers a number of online events to continue to help faculty and staff with the transition to virtual learning. You can find all upcoming events on the CVC-OEI Events page. For online instruction support requests, please contact CVC-OEI.

RESOURCES
The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and the Center for Urban Education are offering a six-part webinar series to provide strategies for faculty and administrators to exercise agency on behalf of the most vulnerable students. Webinars will be recorded and posted on the Vision Resource Center. The second webinar is:

Equity-Minded Online Teaching: Using Canvas as a Model
Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Professor Jennifer Ortiz will illustrate how to use Canvas with an equity mindset. She will provide examples of techniques and strategies which can be easily applied in any course. For example, she will show participants the video message she uses to welcome students into her class. This session will also have a focus on the implementation of AB705. Register at this link.

College practitioners can find COVID-19 resources, information, and community within the Vision Resource Center. Create an account or log in. Under the “Connect” menu, visit “All Communities” and look for the “CCC | COVID-19 Resources, Tools and Discussion” section. Click “Join Community” to access the content within.

STUDENT SUPPORTS
Please encourage your students to visit StayEnrolled.com to get the latest information and updates related to financial aid, transfer and career education. Current and prospective students can also get connected with their local college to find out specific resources and support services available as well as enroll in their local community college.

Help is available around the clock for anyone who needs support right now. The California Youth Crisis line runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 800-843-5200. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides confidential assistance to anyone in crisis and their loved ones through a live chat and free 24-hour hotline at 800-273-8255. You can also text the Crisis Text Line at 741741. Our LGBTQ students can also contact the Trevor Project by calling 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678 for 24/7 information. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline is available from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. at 1-800-273-8255. Or call or text the Victims of Crime Resource Center at 1-800-842-8467 for help.

HOW TO HELP
The Foundation for California Community Colleges, in partnership with the California Community Colleges, has launched an effort to provide emergency aid, technology, connectivity and other essential supports to students. Click here for more on ways to support students through this campaign.

Want to help your community but aren’t sure where to start? The Californians For All website connects interested volunteers with high-need opportunities to safely serve their communities.

The California Association of Food Banks’ Farm to Family Program works with farmers, ranchers, packers and shippers to get California farm products from the field to 40+ food banks throughout the state. You can donate money or surplus crops through the CAFB website.

OTHER INFORMATION
California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom will host an interactive virtual story time via Facebook Live on Thursday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., on Día de los Libros.

Black Americans are dying of coronavirus at much higher rates in some major cities. In an effort to shed more light on this troubling statistic, ABC7 is hosting a virtual and interactive town hall called “Race and Coronavirus: Impact on the African American community.” The town hall is tomorrow, Thursday, April 30 at 4:00 p.m. Find more information, and submit questions, at this link.
TIP OF THE DAY
If you, one of your students or someone else you know lost a job because of the pandemic, this article answers a number of questions about applying for and receiving California unemployment benefits.

Did you get this from someone else? Sign up to receive the daily COVID-19 Special Update under ‘Subscribe and Connect.’