May 14, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 44

Los Angeles Trade-Technical College staff show their appreciation for the essential workers still on campus. This banner was put up Wednesday at the entrance where these employees enter the campus. (Photo by Roxanne Romo)

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 submitted his 2020-21 May Revision budget proposal to the Legislature. The proposal aims to close the projected $54.3 billion budget gap brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of education, the May Revision proposes $44.9 billion in General Fund support for schools and community colleges and $6 billion in additional federal funds to supplement state funding. To address the decline in the constitutionally-required funding for schools and community colleges resulting from the COVID-19 recession, the May Revision proposes to reallocate $2.3 billion in funds previously dedicated to paying down schools’ unfunded liability to CalSTRS and CalPERS to instead pay the school employers’ retirement contributions. It also proposes a new obligation of 1.5% of state appropriation limit revenues starting in 2021-22 to avoid a permanent decline in school funding that grows to $4.6 billion in additional funding for schools and community colleges by 2023-24. The May Revision does preserve community college free tuition waivers and maintains Cal Grants for college students, including the grants for students with dependent children established last year.

The budget also calls for a 10% pay reduction for state workers, or the equivalent of two furlough days a month. The governor said he and his staff would also take pay cuts.

The Legislature is required to pass a balanced budget by June 15.

Read Gov. Newsom’s news release here and the full budget proposal here.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley issued this statement to today’s budget announcement. You can also read University of California President Janet Napolitano’s statement and California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White’s statement.

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

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti announced all residents, except those with disabilities and children under the age of two, would be required to wear face coverings in public. All Los Angeles County beaches have reopened.
The Centers for Disease Control today released its guidelines on how states can safely allow for businesses and schools to reopen.

Nearly 3 million more people filled for jobless benefits last week, sending the total to 36.5 million Americans that have applied for unemployment over the past eight weeks.

COVID-19 whistleblower Rick Bright today told a House committee the U.S. lacks a plan to produce and fairly distribute a coronavirus vaccine and the nation could face "the darkest winter in modern history" unless leaders act decisively.

SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS
The Chancellor's Office is committed to keeping our system informed during this time. We encourage all administrators, faculty and staff to regularly visit the Chancellor's Office COVID-19 resource page.

Read Chancellor Oakley's guest commentary for CalMatters on how the state's community colleges are transitioning to online learning

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 fifth webinar is:

Equity-Minded Mathematics Instruction
Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
This webinar will include one or more math instructors from California and Colorado who have worked with CUE on developing pedagogical practices that are critically race conscious. This session will address: (1) traditional vs equity-minded conceptions of the ways in which math is done and thought about, (2) how to draw upon student’s knowledge, (3) noticing racialized patterns in data close to practice (gradebook and attendance mapping, designing homework problems), (4) engaging students conversations that focus on how they are experiencing the online environment. 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
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.

Please reach out for help if you need it. 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.

OTHER INFORMATION
Many of us have increased anxiety right now. While we can’t help what’s happening, there are strategies that can help any of us feel better. Here are seven ways to cope in today’s world.
TIP OF THE DAY

The California Coronavirus COVID-19 Response website has developed an immigrant resource guide to provide information about COVID-19 related assistance, including public benefits, that are available to immigrant Californians.

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