May 27, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 52

Members of Cypress College’s Charger Experience team pause for a photo while distributing regalia to the college’s Promise students. The drive-up distribution supported participation in Cypress College’s virtual commencement on May 22. The Charger Experience Program supports the college’s Pledge/Promise students and their transition into college, connecting them to services and people on campus to help ensure a successful higher education experience.

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS
Gov. Gavin Newsom and members of his Task Force on Business & Jobs Recovery today spoke with Californians in the fitness industry about what recovery can look like in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor said new guidelines for gyms should be coming within the next week. You can watch the roundtable discussion here.

The governor today also spoke with the Today Show on myriad topics surround the pandemic, including reopening schools, the state’s economy and his push for mail-in ballots for the November election.

You can find the latest information on the state’s response to the pandemic on California’s COVID-19 website.

A county health officer in Santa Clara says the state is reopening too soon.

If you are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, more money is coming your way. Anyone who’s used their allotment of up to 26 weeks of state unemployment insurance benefits can now get up to another 13 weeks of payments.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond today said it’s time for California companies to step up and help the state come up with $500 million to close the digital divide.

The United States today marked at least 100,000 reported COVID-19 deaths.

SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS
The Chancellor’s Office is committed to keeping everyone informed during this uncertain time. We encourage administrators, faculty, staff and students to regularly check the Chancellor’s Office COVID-19 resource page for ongoing executive orders, guidance memos and announcements. 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.

College practitioners can find past COVID-19 Weekly Webinar recordings and other COVID-19 information 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.
ONLINE INSTRUCTION/WEBINARS

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. Upcoming webinars include:

Eenie, Meenie, Pisces, or NetTutor: California Community Colleges Colleagues Share Best Practices for using the Pisces Platform and NetTutor as Complementary Tools
Thursday, May 28 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Colleagues from Mt. San Jacinto College will share their best practices and tips on how to successfully implement the Pisces Platform while using NetTutor as a complementary tool. Why reinvent the wheel? Find ways to leverage the CVC-OEI online tutoring resources to achieve a sustainable online tutoring option for your students. Register at this link.

Online Health and Mental Health Resources for Students- Showcasing Wellness Central and Foundation for California Community Colleges Health and Wellness Websites
Friday, May 29 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Providing health and mental health services and resources to the California community college student population is more important than ever. Many colleges are transitioning to a fall 2020 remote format or hybrid format and are looking for ways to offer support services online. Wellness Central is a Canvas-based program that offers a wide variety of health information in one place in a familiar venue for our students. The tag line “your space at your pace” reflects the confidential and 24/7 availability features of this program. The California Community Colleges Health and Wellness website opening page promotes “Health. Mental Health. Wellness. Basic Needs.” again all in one place. Both sites were created specifically for California community college students and both are free to all California community colleges. Register at this link.

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 sixth webinar is:

How to Express Care with a focus on Racial Equity
Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
This session is informed by common assumptions that racially minoritized students are deficient. Often times instructor’s and administrators’ responses imply that “racial equity” means to provide interventions that “fix students.” This session will critically address how to provide authentic care to students with a focus on racial equity. Register at this link.

The Board of Governors and the Chancellor’s Office have an unwavering commitment to advance equitable and inclusive hiring practices across California’s community colleges. As such, the Chancellor’s Office is hosting a webinar, called Prioritizing Equal Employment Opportunity during COVID-19. The webinar will feature a panel on what California community colleges can do during this period of upheaval and uncertainty to continue to support diversification efforts in hiring and retention. The panel will address the challenges of our current environment, such as virtual interviews, institutional change under crisis, and will also provide recommendation. The webinar is Thursday, May 28 from 10:00 – 11:30. Register at this link.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

If any of your students are uninsured and need medical advice, about the coronavirus or otherwise, the Medi-Nurse line is available 1-877-409-9052. We know students are looking for extra support during this trying time. We have compiled a list of mental health support available to students and will continue to share them on a daily basis.

- If students have Medi-Cal and are in need of mental health services, they can call the number on their health plan membership card, or call their local county mental health line. For help finding what services are covered, call the Medi-Cal Managed Care and Mental Health Office of the Ombudsman at 888-452-8609 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- If you are concerned about a family in need of food or assistance, or you need resources yourself, call 211, contact your local non-profit Family Resource Center, or apply for public benefits, which may include health care, cash aid, and food and nutrition assistance, through your county’s Social Services or Health and Human Services department.

- Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the California Community Colleges Health & Wellness website. Specific COVID-19 resources are available on the home page.

- Wellness Central is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

- Each Mind Matters offers resources, tools and activation kits for mental health.
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 COURAGE to 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.

The California Department of Public Health announced a specific web page with COVID-19 resources for Spanish speakers and their families.

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
Our new normal: Even after a vaccine is discovered and deployed, experts say the coronavirus will likely remain for decades to come.

California state workers could be reassigned for coronavirus work if volunteer drive comes up short.

TIP OF THE DAY
May is Mental Health Matters Month! Check out these self-care and wellness tips to help cope with being stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic. Remember, you are not alone! #EachMindMatters.

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