

April 27, 2020

Dear Cuyamaca Students:

As we enter into the sixth week of the Governor's stay-at-home order, I want to remind you that we are all in this together, and some days are better than others. Know that at Cuyamaca College our student support staff and faculty are here to help you. We know it is challenging, but we also know that you are strong and mighty Coyotes. If you need help, please ask. We'll work through it together.

### **STAY ENROLLED**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a major shift in all our lives and may have caused extraordinary circumstances on your end making it difficult to continue your education. We are committed to helping you to succeed in this semester and urge you to connect with your instructor and/or counselor if you are struggling. Visit our [Virtual Campus microsite](#) to access tools such as [tutoring](#), [library resources](#)/returning your materials to campus, tutorials [for Canvas](#) and [Zoom](#), [financial aid](#), and more. We will do what we can to help you complete this semester.

If you feel you need to make a change, below are a number of options that may help.

#### **Pass/No Pass**

Students are able to [change their grading basis to Pass/No Pass](#). The changing of your grading basis -- from a letter grade to a Pass/No Pass -- you can limit the impact of your course outcome on your GPA. You have until June 1, 2020 to request the change and you are strongly encouraged to [contact your counselor](#) to discuss your specific situation before filing your paperwork.

#### **Excused Withdrawal (EW) Process**

If you feel you cannot reasonably continue in your courses this semester, [there is a process in place for you to receive an excused withdrawal](#) (EW). You can request an excused withdrawal online via [Self Service](#) through June 1, 2020. You are strongly urged to [contact your counselor](#) prior to requesting the EW to discuss how this may impact your specific educational goals.

Information from the federal government indicates courses receiving an EW will not count toward/against a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), but students will be held to GPA requirements. If you are a student receiving Financial Aid, please make sure to discuss your status with your counselor/financial aid advisor prior to applying for an EW.

### **PERSONAL SUPPORT**

The COVID-19 pandemic has also caused a disruption in the economic stability of many of you. I know you have many needs. If you have not already visited our [Virtual Campus microsite](#), please do. We are working to compile the most current information and resources there.

#### **CARES Act Funding**

Cuyamaca College will receive \$1.4 Million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Funds will be distributed through our campus Financial Aid & Scholarships department. If you applied for funding through the Cuyamaca Cares Emergency Fund you will be notified shortly regarding the status of your application. You do NOT need to reapply.

## **Community Resources**

We have added a number of [community resources](#) to our Virtual Campus microsite. The page is designed to centralize a number of resources in our community -- links to unemployment information, health care access, food, housing, and utility assistance, and resources for specific communities. As more resources are identified, we will add them here.

## **Personal Counseling**

With all the changes surrounding COVID-19 it is important that students have a safe space to share their concerns, frustrations, anxiety, and other challenges they may be experiencing in this unprecedented time. Cuyamaca College Personal Counseling will hold [weekly Student Support Groups beginning Tuesday, April 28](#).

There is no cost to attend, but [students must RSVP](#). The virtual meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. and every Thursday at 12:00 p.m.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

While it may be challenging to think long-term, it is important to keep focused on your education goals.

## **Summer Session**

Summer session has been modified to begin June 22, and will be offered online only. The [Summer 2020 schedule](#) is available now and registration begins May 11. Courses will be offered in the following disciplines: Art, Automotive Technology, Biological Sciences, Business, Child Development, Communication, Counseling, Economics, Engineering, English, Exercise Science, Graphic Design, Health Education, History, Mathematics, Music, Nutrition, Political Science, and Psychology.

## **Commencement**

Commencement 2020 will be offered in a virtual format. You will have the option to add your name, photo, degree, and a brief, written personal message to the commencement ceremony. You can expect to receive an email in early May with a link to upload your information. We will host a Student Forum on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. Please [RSVP](#) to learn more about this special ceremony, you will be sent Zoom log-in information.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a link to the ceremony that you can share with friends and family. We also urge your friends and family to cheer your success on social media using the hashtag #CuyamacaGrad2020. Social media posts using this hashtag will be added to the virtual ceremony website.

## **BRIEF UPDATES**

Library staff are working on a process to return items before the end of the semester. Until then, all [due dates have been extended to June 1](#).

Want to infuse some fun into your Zoom class meetings? We've created some [Cuyamaca College campus backgrounds](#) for your use.

Due to the campus closure, Cuyamaca Cares is unable to physically host the Care Fair, but we have put together a [Virtual Care Fair](#) – a directory of community agencies and resources.

Please never forget we are here for you. We are in this together,

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica Robinson  
Vice President Student Services