April 27, 2020

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We have been awaiting stay-at-home guidance from the Governor and health officials, which we are expecting to receive later this week. In the interim, for our planning purposes, we must make two important announcements today.

**First, we will be extending remote work until Monday, May 18,** at which time we will evaluate next steps as necessary. Any decisions on having staff on campus at that time, or returning to campus, will be made in a thoughtful and highly coordinated manner by each department, the Emergency Operations Center and the President’s Leadership Team based on guidance from our Governor and state and local health officials. Events continue to be on hold until further notice.

**Second, this summer, all courses at Bristol Community College will be offered online.** We acknowledge that we do not have all the answers and there is a lot of work and planning that will need to take place for us to succeed, but we know it is important that our students, faculty and staff have the information they need to make their own plans. You will have many questions. That’s okay. We will find the answers together in the coming weeks.

- Academic Affairs will be collaborating with many key stakeholders across the college including faculty, unions, senates and deans on how best to implement.

- Student Services and Enrollment Management will be communicating with the students who have already enrolled in face-to-face courses for the summer. We will also be suggesting that students contact their assigned advisor if they have a need.

- We are sending a student email tomorrow morning that announces that all summer sessions will be 100% online, provides clarification on the CARES Act, confirms that we will not institute Pass/Fail this semester and reiterates that there are numerous resources available to them. We know our current and prospective students will have questions. Students should continue to check their Bristol email, social media and the Bristol website for updates.
• We will be sending a BCCAlert reminding students to check their Bristol email and will be updating the information provided on the summer registration portion of the website as soon as possible. Please remember to check BristolCC.edu/Coronavirus for ongoing updates.

The student email also provides the following clarification:

• If you are currently enrolled in an online class this summer, there will be no changes to your course.
• Hybrid courses will move fully online.
• If a student is currently enrolled in face-to-face classes this summer, their class will run, but it will be an online course.
• Classes from the spring semester that have a hands-on component should continue to check with their instructors. While we hope to bring these students back as soon as possible to complete the course requirements, we will do so if and only if, it is safe and within the strict guidelines set forth by the state health officials and Centers for Disease Control.
• Registration is open now for both summer and fall semesters. A decision on whether fall will be online will not take place until sometime this summer. Please urge your students to register for summer and fall classes as soon as possible.
• Select Bristol Adult Education classes will continue with remote learning during the summer semester. Both High School Equivalency (HiSET, GED) and English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes will be offered in a remote environment.

Our emergency operations council and college leadership team continue to closely monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Massachusetts, our neighboring states and throughout the United States. Due to the steps we have taken to date, there has been no known exposure of COVID-19 among our students, faculty and staff at any of our campuses. We know of cases, but because of the proactive, strict guidelines our college put into place early, they were not contracted at our facilities, nor have impacted anyone associated with Bristol.

We must continue to be diligent in our response to the coronavirus pandemic. Massachusetts has the third-most reported coronavirus cases in the nation and our region of the state is only now beginning to experience an increase in cases. Our local health officials are predicting that our region is behind the Boston area and will peak in the next two weeks. Now, national projections are stating that social distancing will continue through the summer.
The next few weeks may be the toughest our region will face in relation to the virus. While many of us may be experiencing “quarantine fatigue,” now is not the time to relax social distancing. I wish the best of health for you and your families. We will get through this together by making decisions that are in the best interest of our students and our entire college community.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Douglas
President