April 28, 2020

To our Bristol students:

Bristol Community College is working every day to ensure that our community is safe and healthy while we navigate this unusual situation. Thank you for your continued patience as we plan for the months ahead. We are working to get all of your questions answered as fast as possible, including plans for summer and fall. We would like to share the following with you:

**Summer 2020 will be 100% Online**

Massachusetts has the third-most reported cases of COVID-19 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. We know that our students, faculty and staff need to plan for what comes next in the summer months. Therefore, our summer semester will take place 100% online.

- 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 you are currently enrolled in face-to-face classes this summer, your 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 it is our 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 and Centers for Disease Control.

Registration is now open for both the summer and fall semesters. A decision on whether the fall semester will be online will not take place until the summer as we continue to receive guidance from state and local health officials. Please register for summer and fall classes as soon as possible and continue to check your Bristol email on a regular basis.

**Resources**

We want to assure you and make it abundantly clear that the college’s resources and support services continue to be available remotely to assist you. Below we have included a short list of services that could be helpful in the coming weeks. More information can be found on our website at BristolCC.edu/Coronavirus. These services have been and continue to be available to you, uninterrupted, and with your success in mind.
• **Library:** Use the video chat (scroll down and see the chat on your right).
• **Tutoring:** Click here to get connected to all your tutoring options, including 1:1 appointments, online drop-ins and email paper review
• **Online Learning Help:** If you are experiencing issues with your online learning experience, please fill out the Bristol Online Help Request or contact us by phone at 774.357.2081.
• **Tech Help:** Please fill out the ITS Help Form if you have a technology question or need tech help while learning remotely. You can also call us at 774.357.3333.
• **WiFi:** There is access to WiFi from your car under the solar canopies on the Fall River Campus.
• **Advising:** advisingcenter@bristolcc.edu
• **Disability Services:** disabilityservices@bristolcc.edu
• **Enrollment Services:** enrollmentsrv@bristolcc.edu
• **Financial Aid:** financialaid@bristolcc.edu
• **Registrar:** registraroffice@bristolcc.edu
• **Student Accounts:** studentaccounts@bristolcc.edu
• **Student and Family Engagement:** studentengagement@bristolcc.edu
• **Student Wellness / Mental Health and Counseling:** nicole.picard@bristolcc.edu
• **Student Wellness / Health Services:** healthservices@bristolcc.edu

**Pass / Fail**

The college does not have a Pass/Fail policy available. We have determined that it is not logistically possible for the college to offer Pass/Fail for the current spring semester. Understanding that there are a group of students who would like this option, we had many discussions throughout the college. It was determined that more time is needed to be able to effectively and fairly develop a policy. The college will continue to investigate the Pass/Fail option for future semesters.

The challenges of Pass/Fail grades include the inability to transfer courses to most colleges and universities, the inability to meet grade requirements for externally accredited programs of study, the inability to meet requirements for selective program admissions and the inability to meet the criteria for some scholarship opportunities.

**CARES Act Funding**

Last week it was announced that Bristol will receive $4.6 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This is part of $14 billion in federal funding awarded to institutions of higher education across the country.

We know that there have been questions about the distribution of these funds. In a recent communication, we announced that we are closely following the Massachusetts Department of Education’s (DOE) guidance on how to distribute these funds.
Here’s what we know:

• The first 50 percent of the CARES Act funds ($2.3 million) will go directly to Bristol students and will be distributed through the college’s Student Accounts Office. The funds are to be used for expenses incurred by individual students related to the disruption of campus operations due to the coronavirus, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care and child care expenses.

• As of today, April 28, 2020, the college has not received any of the funds but we are hopeful the $2.3 million for our students will arrive soon.

• Although there has been general guidance; the college is working on a plan that will best suit our students. That plan is still being developed and as soon as possible we will announce when and how the funds will be distributed to students per the state’s guidelines.

• The college is still waiting for specific guidelines for the second half of the CARES Act’s funding of $2.3 million. Still unknown is the timing of when the college will receive it, and what guidelines will be accompanying the funding. We are hopeful that these funds will help Bristol recover some of the costs associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Click here for more on the CARES Act.

• Some students have received emails from BankMobile about Emergency Financial Aid Grants. The email was distributed by BankMobile but was sent to Bristol students in error. BankMobile will be sending an apology email to students for the confusion this caused. If you received the email last week from BankMobile, please disregard.

• It is also important to note that the college’s CARE Fund or CARE Team is not affiliated with the federal government’s Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As soon as we receive updates, you’ll be the first to know. Please continue to check your Bristol email, our social media channels and BristolCC.edu/Coronavirus for further information and updates.

As we move forward, please do not hesitate to reach out for support or assistance. Your safety and success is our number one priority.

Thank you and be well.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Douglas

President