March 15, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Thank you again for all that you are doing during this challenging time. The safety and well-being of our college community are at the forefront of all of our decisions. I would like to take a few minutes to update you on preparations that have been taking place over the past several days. First, the college will be open as planned Monday, March 16. Students are on spring break. Please check BristolCC.edu/Coronavirus webpage for current information.

I would like to announce that according to our Emergency Preparedness Plan, the elevation of the COVID-19 pandemic and current state of emergency, we have opened our Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is a place where trained personnel monitor information, prepare for changes related to the current pandemic, manage continuity of operations and any necessary closures, and assess the impact on the college. It is important to mention that the college does not have any advanced warning when decisions are made on the state or federal level. **We are hearing the information from the Governor at the same time you are receiving this information and need to implement it as quickly and appropriately as possible.**

Based on recent information, we would like to provide a few quick updates this evening followed by more detailed information over the next few days:

1. Conferences, seminars and other discretionary gatherings, scheduled and hosted by the college at all locations, and taking place at the college but hosted by outside entities, with audiences larger than 25 will be canceled or postponed. Please contact Laura Carlson Laura.Carlson@BristolCC.edu or 774-3578-2599 to cancel or postpone an event.
2. The Hawk’s Nest located in C building on the Fall River Campus will continue to be open. Self-service has been discontinued and customers should take their food and leave the area.
3. We are pulling together updated department contact lists and creating signs to guide visitors to call and email as much as possible. We will send an email with this updated information tomorrow which will also be posted on our website. For example, instead of visiting the campus to meet with someone in financial aid, you have the option to email or call the department directly.

This weekend, we continued to build plans that take into account many different scenarios that could play out over the coming weeks. We should expect that many decisions will be made incrementally on a week by week, or day by day basis.
This is important as we find our way in new territory. Please continue to check your Bristol email on a regular basis and visit the BristolCC.edu/Coronavirus webpage. Once again, I assure you that we are making thoughtful and thorough decisions based on the guidance of our Governor and state health officials. We will have more information in the coming days to share with you. It is critical that we all do our part to keep our community safe and we are grateful for your support and patience.

With appreciation,

Laura Douglas

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