

Your College  **Right Now**

March 23, 2020

ACC Students and Employees,

I'd like to spend a few moments with you today to talk about the Colleges response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order last week, requiring social distancing and other efforts to reduce the spread of the disease. As your president, I take this very seriously.

Please understand that we have several strategic objectives to address the current situation, but first and foremost, our objective is to protect the health and safety of our students and employees.

In order to accomplish this, we have decided that on Monday, March 30, 2020, course work will be delivered in an online format wherever possible. In some cases, alternative assignments may be provided to students and in the case of some courses that require hands-on training, students may be able to receive the training on the campus later in the semester. This move is applicable to all locations where the college offers coursework, including dual credit locations, prison units, UHCL-Pearland and the ACC campus.

While many of our faculty are well-versed in the delivery of online courses, those who are less familiar will be mentored by more experienced faculty and as always, our distance education team and information technology team are ready to provide support.

Some of our workforce courses have been temporarily suspended, especially in the Continuing Education division. The Directors of these programs will stay in touch with students to provide updates regarding when instruction may resume.

While courses will be offered in alternative formats, faculty are working hard to ensure that all program learning outcomes are retained in courses and that all the student learning outcomes can be met. We want our students to stay on track for completion of their courses and degrees. Students who lack access to the internet or to a device, may, in small numbers, come to the campus to access an open computer lab while observing appropriate social distancing. We will continue to search for ways to address student technology access issues.

Beginning March 30, we are asking that the majority of employees, both faculty and staff, work remotely, while still providing students with necessary services, most of which will be in alternate formats. For instance, students who need advising may speak with an advisor online or on the phone. A system is being set up for students to take the TSI exam on line in a proctored environment from a remote location. Information pertaining to the access of remote student services will be posted on the ACC website and in the student POD. There will be a few employees required to take care of essential campus functions.

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Rest assured that an administrator will be on campus each day, Monday through Friday, to address any concerns that may arise. The Child Care Center will also reopen on March 30, with enhanced attention to health and safety. Campus renovation will continue on schedule.

We are disappointed, as I am sure you will be, that we must postpone some of the most special annual celebrations and traditions, including pinnings, award ceremonies, and college graduations. Please be reminded that any student who has completed the requirements for degree completion will be awarded their credential. We will do our very best to reschedule these important events that serve as a testimony to not only the hard work and success of our students, but the dedication of the faculty and staff.

Throughout this time period of altered college operations, our goal is to retain our full time and part time employees, help employees focus on doing their work each day, help students succeed, and eventually, return to more normal operations. Please continue to monitor the College's website and Student/Employee portal, the POD for updated information. We are thankful to the ACC Board of Regents for their leadership during this crisis and also for passing a resolution to pay full-time and part-time employees during the college closure until we reopen on March 30, under altered operations. This action demonstrates their commitment to the college, the employees, the students and their support of higher education. I want to remind everyone that the landscape is quite literally changing daily and I want to assure you that the college leadership is working tirelessly of behalf of students and employees for everyone's success. It is uncharted territory for us. While we have weathered hurricanes and tropical storms, COVID -19 presents us with something different. . . . One difference is that we do not know when to expect a return to normal. I ask that you be patient and flexible as we work through all the issues together.

Be kind to yourselves and others. Follow all the recommended precautions regarding the spread of the virus. If you find yourself stressed and would like to talk with someone, please reach out to our remote counseling services. Above all, do everything you can to stay healthy.

And remember our ACC Core Values! ACC is:

- Community Asset
- Accountable
- Responsive
- Excellence
- Student-Centered

In other words, ACC CARES~

I wish you all the best. Fins up!
Christal



Dr. Christal M. Albrecht
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