

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

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April 21, 2020

Dear faculty and staff,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well. The end of the Spring 2020 semester is quickly approaching, and I applaud the work of each of you in ensuring that we are able to complete this semester in spite of the significant disruptions caused by COVID-19. I proudly report that Delgado Community College has remained open for business, albeit virtually. We were able to shift rapidly and maintain the business and academic continuity of the college. I commend you for all that you are doing to find innovative ways to adjust courses, counsel students, and minimize the impact of this pandemic on our students' academic journey.

Official Changes--We have had to make a few changes to our Spring calendar, such as extending the final date students can drop a course or withdraw with a "W" to May 4, 2020, which is the last day of class. Also, Interim Vice Chancellor Gaspard sent a message to faculty and students last week related to the five grading options. What I want you to know is that these options were carefully decided based on extensive research, discussions, and consultation with Deans Council, Student Affairs, Faculty Senate, and Student Government. Also, in my last communication to you, I shared that Spring Commencement has been postponed to August 4, 2020 at the UNO Lakefront Arena. I am committed to honoring and celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2020 and the faculty and staff that helped them reach this milestone. Be aware that this is a constantly changing situation and the college is prepared to re-evaluate and adjust to ensure the safety of all.

Our Path Forward--Governor John Bel Edwards extended the stay at home order until April 30. However, I am not anticipating that life as we knew it will resume immediately thereafter. To that end, I have strongly encouraged that summer courses be conducted remotely, and those courses that are listed as face to face must be prepared to quickly shift to remote instruction--if that need arises. We must be prepared to offer alternative instructional delivery for Summer Session and Fall Semester. There is still so much that is unknown about this disease, and we must be proactive. Many colleges across the country have shifted their summer and fall schedules to alternative instructional delivery models.

I am very pleased to inform you that our newly launched Maymester is seeing a healthy enrollment. Today, we have 260 students enrolled. Maymester classes begin May 16 and end

May 30. Also, summer enrollment is 2,317, and we are seeing an early increase as compared to this time last summer.

We are also in the process of developing a plan for our return. This plan will consist of cleaning and disinfecting protocols and a phased approach to faculty and staff return. I just want you to know that we are thinking ahead and I will share more with you when that time comes.

Thank you for all that you are doing on behalf of our students and the college. Stay safe. I appreciate you, and I will be in touch with updates.

Sincerely,

Larissa Littleton-Steib, Ph.D.
Chancellor