Good evening.

Based on guidance from Governor DeWine, we are working to shift from in-person to alternative forms of instruction in response to Ohio COVID-19 exposure concerns. There are many details that are still being considered, but we want to make sure lines of communication are open. Accordingly, we will cancel First Wednesday tomorrow and instead host a livestream video conference beginning at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Join at www.livestream.com/cscc, password: cougars.

In order to prepare for the best student outcomes possible, we will not hold classes during the week of March 16, resuming in alternative forms of instruction on Monday, March 23. College operations will continue, and faculty and staff will work during the week of March 16 to prepare for this new form of delivery for many courses. For some of our courses, this is easy. Labs, clinicals, and other courses are more challenging. Reserving next week to plan will provide the time needed to address these challenges thoughtfully.

For College Credit Plus courses taught at high school locations, courses being delivered at employer sites, and other partnership arrangements, we will work with our partners and faculty to determine the best course of action. These conversations will begin immediately.

Since many of our students do not have broadband Internet access at home, we have an arrangement with the Columbus Metropolitan Library to provide opportunities for our students at all of their branches, and we are evaluating how we can establish open labs on our campuses that can provide access while respecting appropriate social distancing recommendations from health professionals.

We are being advised not to think of this as a short-term issue, but one that may persist. This will raise academic issues, scheduling issues for summer term, and many other operational considerations. We will work through these together. We have a good team of thoughtful people I’m confident will make well-considered recommendations.

This is an unusual time, but I know the Columbus State spirit of collaboration and student success will provide the right course of action. We’ll approach this work with a safety-first mentality, and be as responsive as possible to the individual circumstances of faculty, staff, students, and partners.

Thanks for your patience as we work through this together. During tomorrow’s livestream, we’ll update you on our path forward – what we know and what is still being considered. If you have questions, please send them to coronavirus@cscc.edu. Your questions will help guide communication going forward.

Thanks,

Dave

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