



April 7, 2020

Dear HCCC Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends,

The second week of 100% remote instruction and learning is well underway. Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we provide you with the high quality instruction and services you have come to expect. You may have heard that this week may be an especially challenging week for our state and our country. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths is expected to increase, and Governor Phil Murphy recently announced several new Executive Orders (extending by thirty days the Public Health Emergency declared on March 9th, closure of all State and County Parks in NJ, and an indefinite closure of all public schools and certain types of assessments in public schools). I encourage you all to please take each day as it comes. We will get through this and be back together soon as one extraordinary HCCC community. Continue to practice social distancing and let's not only flatten the curve, but let's crush the curve.

This week and beyond, please take time to acknowledge those in your life who continue to provide essential care and services for those in need. Several of our colleagues were recently acknowledged in the Hudson Employee Spotlight for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities promoting HCCC's mission and values in their daily work. They are Jing Yang (Director of Library Technology), Patricia Clay (Chief Information Officer), and Joseph Caniglia (Interim Associate Dean ENG/ESL). Thank you for all you do!

Please note the following important announcements and reminders:

Friday, April 10, the College will be closed in observance of Good Friday. However, all remote Library services will continue to be offered 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Friday and 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The **FAFSA deadline** for Renewal of State Aid for Academic Year 2020-21 has been extended to June 1, 2020.

Online Tutoring services are available at: www.hccc.mywconline.com.

Canvas support for students is available at:

<https://www.hccc.edu/OnlineLearning/Resources-Online-Students/>

Faculty support for Canvas is available at: <http://hccc.edu/COL-Strategy-Contingency-Plan/>

For **instructional best practices** please contact: COL@hccc.edu

For **WebEx technical support** please contact: ITShelp@hccc.edu

The new EAP employee site offers guidance and resources for you and your family. It's now easier than ever to check out and use services that are part of your no-cost employee benefit. Get connected today at: www.eap.ndbh.com. A list of upcoming Virtual Teaching Sessions and Workshops can also be found in the attached document.

Following are several frequently asked questions (FAQ's).

If you have any questions or concerns, please complete the Coronavirus Concern Form at www.hccc.edu/Coronavirus_Resources. We will continue to respond and update you regularly.

How do I know if the Pass/Fail option is right for me?

Since announcing the availability of a Pass/Fail option, we have received several questions and comments. We realize the magnitude and importance of this decision. As a result, we are sharing the attached document (HCCC Pass/Fail Grade Option). We hope this document provides clearer guidance that will assist you in the decision making process. You can submit a "Special Request for Grade Change" located at www.hccc.edu/forms to your instructor any time before 11:59 p.m. on May 28, 2020. Students are always encouraged to speak with their academic advisors, instructors, program coordinators, and/or Associate Deans before making any decisions about their grading preferences.

Is a computer being made available to students who do not have access to a laptop/computer at home?

Students who do not have access to a computer can borrow a Chromebook from the College. Students in need should submit a request at: https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?HudsonCountyCC&layout_id=5. Be sure to include your full name, Student ID #, telephone number, and HCCC email. Students must return Chromebooks to the College at the conclusion of online learning.

Will spring semester online class evaluations take place?

Yes. A valued part of our academic commitment is to receive feedback regarding how faculty are meeting expectations. Course evaluations will be emailed to all students on or before April 27. Students will receive email reminders until the closing date. After the closing date, course evaluations will be received and shared with the Academic Divisions.

Will all classes be online for the upcoming summer and fall sessions?

The college is currently determining a course of action for Summer and Fall courses. A decision regarding the status of summer online sessions is forthcoming. We ask for your continued patience as we carefully make these decisions.

What counseling services are available for students during this challenging time?

You are important to us and we care deeply about your well-being. As we all deal with the effects of COVID-19, Mental Health Counseling and Wellness services and resources are available at: <https://myhudson.hccc.edu/mental-health-counseling-wellness-center>

Doreen Pontius, Associate Director of Counseling and Wellness can be contacted directly at: dpontius-molos@hccc.edu or call (201) 360-4229.

We understand the challenges this pandemic has caused and we assure you that you will continue to receive quality instruction and services that you need and have come to expect from HCCC. We remain committed to your success.

Thank you!

HCCC Coronavirus (COVID-19) Task Force Co-chairs,
Kathleen Smith-Wenning
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