



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Christopher M. Reber, Ph.D.

June 1, 2020

Dear HCCC Faculty, Staff and Students,

I hope you are all staying safe and well! Thanks so much for everything you are doing to support our students, college, community, and our extended families and friends at this time of great challenge. I see inspirational work and acts of kindness everywhere I look. As difficult as this experience has been for all of us, we have much for which to be thankful.

There is much discussion about our plans for fall and I am writing to provide an update that is informed by the advice of our health care, governmental, and college communities.

We are planning to offer most fall courses either online or remotely, coupled with diligent planning to continue to improve the quality of the online experience for everyone. If fall on-ground operations are permitted by the State – a decision that has not yet been made and will affect all New Jersey colleges and universities regardless of what they have already announced – we are planning a focused offering of face-to-face instruction in areas such as nursing/health sciences, STEM, culinary, and in other lab courses. These would be offered using safety measures such as social distancing as recommended by the health care community, and in some cases using hybrid and/or alternate timing scenarios.

With fewer courses offered on-ground in the fall, we are able to assign more space for social distancing in our face-to-face instruction. Similarly, we are evaluating which student support services and operations will return on-ground first when a gradual return is permitted and the parameters for on-campus operations are announced. Student success and safety are the primary considerations in our planning process.

Our Return to Campus (RTC) Task Force, comprised of approximately 30 faculty, staff, and students including health care professionals, is now hard at work to operationalize this approach. Their work includes specifying which courses will be migrated now to online/remote modalities and identifying which specific services and operations will be prioritized for the beginning of a return to campus when permitted. Further, the Task Force and others are planning continued online training for students and faculty; where to locate on-ground lab and related courses and support services to ensure social distancing if the State authorizes the beginning of a fall return to the physical campus; updating the fall course listings; ordering cleaning and personal protective equipment for on-campus operations; and addressing other related needs.

I sincerely thank RTC Co-Chairs Lisa Dougherty and Heather DeVries, and all of our colleagues who are involved in this critical planning and advisory process. Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this approach.

Thanks so much for your continued dedication and strong support for our students, our college, and our community. Your efforts and engagement make the delivery of our mission possible during the pandemic, and always.

With sincere gratitude,

Christopher M. Reber
President