

Special Spring 2020 Edition Update on COVID-19

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Northwestern Connecticut Community College

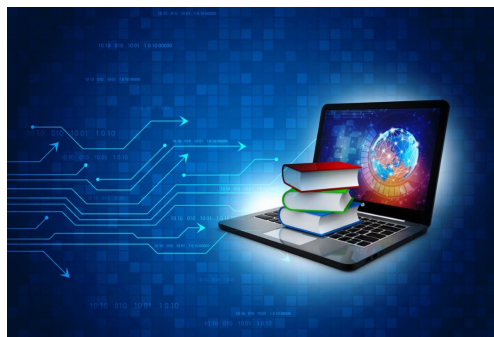
COVID-19 Update and more

President's Message:

Greetings to all our community partners, supporters and friends!

During this difficult time, I wanted to share an update on what Northwestern has been able to accomplish to maintain continuity for our student's as we move forward through the Spring semester and beyond.

As you are probably aware, following the governor's advice, CSCU President, Mark Ojakian agreed that all community colleges would close on March 13. We sent student's home a day before their scheduled spring break (March 16 through 20) with the hope and expectation we would be prepared to bring them back to their classes in a fully online platform.



I am very happy to report that due to the hard work of faculty and staff, students were able to access their classes on Monday, March 23 and continue with their studies. This was no easy task as you can imagine but with the support of so many talented and dedicated people both locally and statewide, we were successful. Our students are now prepared to finish the semester online without disrupting their educational goals.

We are also still able to actively enroll students for future semesters and provide student advising as needed.

We will continue to work to fix any problems with online class instruction as they appear. Some of the extra steps that staff and faculty have taken to ensure our students are still in class include establishing additional Wifi hotspots in our parking lots for students with limited online capabilities, and providing drive-through distribution of loaner laptops to students in need.

We are aware that our students will be among the hardest hit economically by this pandemic. Many of them work one or more jobs, many in retail, and have children and families to support. We expect to receive requests for student emergency funds from students as the impact sets in.

If you are interested in donating to the Student Emergency Fund, which provides short term financial support for numerous expenses, ranging from groceries to utility bills, please send a check to: **Northwestern Community College Foundation Regional Advisory Council, PO Box 833, Winsted, CT, 06098-0833** or go to our website and [donate online](#). Be sure to designate **The Student Emergency Fund** for direct student support.

While we are disappointed that we have had to cancel our on-campus spring events, including our commencement exercises, we are continually working to find ways to creatively keep students and community partners engaged.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

We hope to see you soon.

Dr. Michael Rooke
President



Before The Outbreak...



NCCC Promotes Free Community College Program

Connecticut's debt free community college program was launched across the state at the end of last year and NCCC has been actively promoting this program across the area. The NCCC Admissions office held a counselor breakfast in February, inviting area high school counselors on campus. PACT was the primary topic of discussion and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from counselors who are eager to share information with their graduating seniors.

PACT:

Is open to all Connecticut residents, who meet the following criteria:

- Have graduated or will graduate from a Connecticut High School
- Are attending college for the first time
- Complete the federal financial aid (FAFSA) form and accept all financial aid awards
- Attend community college full-time
- Once enrolled, remain in good academic standing
- Register for classes by July 15th (for priority access to funding)

For more information on PACT, visit [NCCC's website](#)

Capitol Hill: Two of NCCC's students were invited to speak at the capitol in front of the appropriations committee as part of the annual student contingency from campuses across the state. David Castillo (below left) and Melissa Mallem (right) were able to share their personal stories of success with committee members.

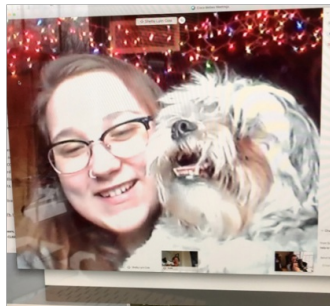


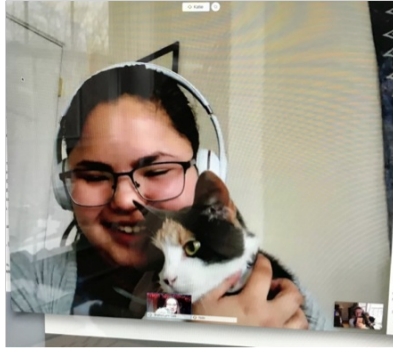
American Jobs Center opened a satellite office at NCCC in February. Housed in our Goulet Building, this vital resource for job seekers will be open one day a week and can provide information and opportunity to northwest corner residents. We are grateful to the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board for the effort they have put in to the success of this opening.

While campus buildings are currently closed, we hope to open this resource back up to the community soon. Check the [Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board website](#) for up-to-date information.

During The Outbreak...

Students adapted quickly to online classes as they work to finish out the semester remotely. Below students share some candid shots as they did a test run to ensure connectivity.





Faculty Comments:

I just taught my non-mandatory coding class through Webex. It worked really well!

Jane M. O'Grady

Professor

Allied Health Programs Coordinator

...my students are responding well and I think we will have smooth online sailing the rest of the semester. I want to stress that we all have built a rapport with our classes... I am so thankful for them and all my fellow NCCC colleagues.

Sue Berg

Art Faculty



Northwestern recently donated medical protective equipment to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital & Trinity Health.

The NCCC Nursing, Science, and Veterinary departments were all in agreement to contribute supplies that will not be used this semester due to the cancellation of on-ground classes.

The college was able to donate a large amount of gloves, masks, goggles, gowns, and swabs to CHH and Trinity Health, who may be facing a critical shortage of these items. The donation has made a significant difference locally in this world-wide fight against the spread of the coronavirus.



Mad River Poetry Anthology

We are making every effort to publish the **24th annual Mad River Anthology**, which consists of original written and visual work by Northwestern students.

The anthology has been a spring tradition at Northwestern since 1996 and we are looking forward to sharing another great mix of our student's creative talents.

And After...



The Northwestern Cultural Committee hosts numerous and varied programs throughout the year and the community is always welcome to attend these free events.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the many events we had planned for the spring but hope to bring our presenters back in the future.

All cultural events are generously funded by The Northwestern Community College Foundation. For more information contact Susan Stiller or visit our website events listing.

Women's Right to Vote! Celebrate the Centennial!

We are looking forward to planning student and community events in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Stay tuned!



The [Northwestern Community College Foundation](#) (NCCF) supports financial needs that are not currently funded by the state for the benefit of students, staff and the community in general. NCCF also sponsors multiple scholarships annually. Thank you to all the generous donors who make these programs and scholarships possible.

Donate Now



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