

STAFF UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CARLSEN – April 13, 2020

Team LTC,

We are now in the third full week under the Safer at Home order. While many of our students and faculty have adapted to online learning, other students and faculty have been in limbo, waiting for an all-clear signal to resume their labs and hands-on training.

Unfortunately, we do not have a clear picture of what our new normal will look like when the Safer at Home order is lifted or the pandemic ends. But, we do know two things are likely. First, things will not go back to the way they were. Much like how the Great Depression, Pearl Harbor, and 9/11 changed our world and our community, the same will likely happen with this pandemic. Second, our college, all of us, and our students will go through a significant time of transition until we begin to feel comfortable and safe around others and large groups.

Faced with this reality, we have determined the following:

- We are continuing to pause all lab-based courses this spring semester and are offering two options to students. Option 1: students can withdraw and receive a 100% refund. Option 2: students can return to campus the month of July and, under strict social distancing rules, demonstrate mastery of competencies to complete the course. We will be allowing limited time on campus for faculty to access lab equipment and to record videos for instructional purposes to support this. Logistical information will be forthcoming. Students will be made aware of these options in the near future, and you will be cc'ed on the communication.
- Essential public safety academies, exempt from the Safer at Home order, will be conducted as planned for those students ready to quickly graduate and enter the workforce. We will do our part to supply this pipeline of critical workers who will help fill any gaps caused by the current workforce becoming ill.
- For the summer term, all courses that can be offered online will be offered online. A decision on lab-based summer courses will be made at a later date, however faculty teaching these courses should prepare to offer as much content online as possible.
- Although we will be operating under a new normal, we fully anticipate issuing contracts for the 2020-21 school year. More information will follow in the week ahead.

Please know we are making decisions with the best interests of our students, our college, and our community in mind. These short-term adjustments are protecting our ability to thrive in the long term. Thank you for your continued flexibility and support as we navigate this challenging time together.

Thanks, Paul