

## STAFF UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CARLSEN – March 18, 2020

Team LTC,

Late yesterday afternoon the Sheboygan County Department of Health & Human Services received notice of a 4<sup>th</sup> confirmed case of COVID-19 in Sheboygan County. This case was determined to be the result of contact with a known positive case, meaning individuals in our community are now transmitting the COVID-19 virus to each other.

The safety and health of you, our students, and our entire community is our number one priority. The situation is rapidly changing, and yesterday's mixed messages and errors in official orders propel us to take action at the college level.

Beginning Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, only limited personnel are to report to our facilities. We are in the process of identifying these people and will communicate with them directly.

Effective immediately, the following will take effect for the duration of the public health emergency, declared in Governor Evers' Executive Order #72, or until a superseding order is issued:

1. All college facilities will remain closed to students and visitors. There will be exceptions made for students to pick up resources such as laptops, but these will be scheduled in advance.
2. All courses that can be delivered online will do so effective March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will remain online for the duration of the semester. Faculty, please reach out to your students to inform them of this.
3. All lab-based courses are suspended until further notice. Faculty, please reach out to your students to inform them of this.
4. All college events remain cancelled.
5. All college-related travel remains prohibited.
6. The child care center is closed.

Please know this decision was reached in consultation with the Board of Trustees, and was not made lightly. I know not being able to educate and support every student goes against our very being as an open-access institution. I also know I will be letting many students down by this decision, and my heart breaks for them. Once we do our part to help keep everyone safe, the Incident Management Team, the Leadership Team, and I will shift our efforts to planning options for students to meet their goals following this emergency.

I am very sorry there has been so much uncertainty in the last 48 hours. We cannot operate on a professional or emotional level without some sense of certainty, and I hope this action provides a tiny sliver of certainty in these unprecedented times. More information will be forthcoming from Jim Lemerond and Polly Abts. An email will be sent to students shortly, and you will be cc'ed on it.

Thanks, Paul