

STAFF UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CARLSEN – March 27, 2020

Team LTC,

It is hard to believe it has been only two weeks since we first started planning for a disruption in our college operations. I am so proud of the professionalism, flexibility, and commitment of this LTC team to rally for students despite all of our own personal worries during this unprecedented time.

With the Safer At Home order in effect until April 24th, and the possibility of a continuation of that order, college operations are again impacted. Please note the following:

- **The Spring Semester is extended to May 15th** to account for the extension of Spring Break for one week.
- **Lab courses will resume beginning April 24th, pending no further Governor-action or extension of Safer At Home.** Our deans have committed to working with students to ensure they complete their lab courses by the extended semester end date of May 15th. Social distancing will be necessary when offering the labs, so there may be adjustments in schedules and how instruction is delivered. We will use the week of March 30th to work through these details and faculty will begin reaching out to students the week of April 6th. In the event the Safer at Home order is extended past April 24th, we will be cancelling lab courses.
- **Online courses**, including those that recently transitioned to online format, will remain in this format until the end of the Spring Semester.
- **Class Registration for Summer and Fall will open on April 7th.** New and returning service members may register on April 6th.
- **Select Public Safety courses will resume the week of April 20th.** The Governor has explicitly excluded first responder training academies from the Safer At Home order due to the public health emergency and forecasted demand for graduates in the coming months. In collaboration with Dean Ryan Skabroud and the faculty, we will offer only those courses which will allow students to join the workforce at the end of the semester. Ryan and the faculty will finalize plans in order to communicate to students next week with next steps.
- **Volunteer firefighting course will be held on campus March 28th.** Our faculty have willingly accepted the exemption for first responder training and will offer the final course to this student group, in a manner consistent with social distancing, this Saturday. I commend this effort on behalf of the communities these students will serve and protect upon completing this program on Saturday.
- **We have made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person spring commencement and all other graduation/completion celebrations.** This decision was made out of an abundance of caution, with the health of our students, our faculty, our staff, and community top-of-mind. Instead, we

will be holding virtual commencement ceremonies, and all graduates will be invited back for an in-person graduation ceremony this coming fall (the date is to be determined).

As you know, the situation is fluid. We will continue to make unemotional decisions with the interests of our students, our college, and our community top-of-mind. An email to students is forthcoming, and you will be cc'ed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Paul