WEEKLY UPDATE

Western Nebraska Community College

November 23, 2020

Happy Monday!

The President's Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been busily crafting a statement clarifying the rationale behind our commitment. We have been referring to this document as our "Institutional Why Statement." Following feedback from the Operations Council, our statement was modified and officially adopted on November 12th. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort. The statement has been posted to the President's Page of our website under Planning and Goals.

At the November Board of Governors meeting, the resignation of one of our Nursing Instructors, Ms. Kevin Dahlstedt, was accepted. Kevin will finish this term before her departure and she will definitely be missed. We have decided ***not*** to replace this position for spring, but as a reminder, Kelsey Stark will be joining the Nursing Department in January. While Kelsey and Kevin do have differing individual strengths, the departmental team we have in place remains quite strong, much to the benefit of our nursing students.

Next week, Dean of Students Norman Coley, Jr. will begin reporting directly to me as our Executive Dean of Student Services. While most of what Norman does for our students and our institution will remain unchanged, this new vantagepoint will afford him a unique opportunity to serve as part of the Senior Leadership team. His strengths in student engagement, student leadership development and student conduct will continue to serve the institution well and his ability to view situations from multiple perspectives will inform our institutional decision-making. Please join me in thanking Norman for his willingness to participate in leading us forward in this capacity.

The Pandemic Response team met two times last week. We discussed the upcoming transition for Fall 2020 and the anticipated beginning of Spring 2021. Several internal communications have been planned to keep you informed as we move forward. We are exploring our options regarding possible COVID testing for spring, beginning with a potential collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAPWN) and perhaps extending to the State of Nebraska. Prior to winter break, we will spend significant time reviewing our protocols. While we are confident that we have addressed the critical aspects of our response, this assessment may identify weaknesses, providing an opportunity for improvement. Please feel free to discuss your perspectives and experiences with us as we conduct this analysis.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or insights to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great, *short* week!

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.
President

*WNCC assures learning opportunities for all – **enriching** lives, **invigorating** communities, **creating** futures*