

March 13, 2020

Hau Mitakiyapi,

As per our emergency meeting this morning (3/13/2020) at SWC.

Given the potential spread of COVID-19 around the Lake Traverse Reservation, Sisseton Wahpeton College will begin our course delivery using eLearning beginning Tuesday March 17, 2020 at 4:30 pm. I am providing you with some time to make absolute sure your students are completely informed and you are as prepared to deliver your course(s) using this technology. I am not confident this is the best method for delivering courses to our students, but I am afraid we have to do what is safest for our students, staff, families, and community. At this time, I believe it is what is best. Honestly, we would start it today if I was confident, we were completely prepared to make the switch from face to face to online.

We will be in this "online delivery" state at SWC until April 7 at 8:00 am when classes will resume as face to face (in class) delivery. The amount of time from March 14 through April 6 will give us time to monitor how this disease has been handled or contained. It will also give us the "in" to go back to online delivery if possible. Some of these huge colleges are closing their campuses and going straight online for the remainder of the year. This is just not feasible for SWC at this time. Also, what about graduation? There are so many unknowns that making this decision is not easy, but it has to be made...sooner rather than later. For now, 2020 SWC Graduation is still on as scheduled, but this could also change.

Starting on Wednesday April 8, faculty will NOT be required to report to campus. I set the online delivery date out a few days to allow you time to make copies, scan to pdf, gather your essential course materials, and mostly, INFORM YOUR STUDENTS. We really must make sure they know what is required of them. They have to attend class through eLearning, they have to turn in homework and/or assignments, and take quizzes. Maybe you will require them to do a chat or forum...these things are all possible. This isn't a vacation for them or us. As I said before, this is not the most ideal delivery of academics for us at SWC. However, we will be learning as we go and I am confident you will do what is best for your students!

Spring break will happen as planned even though there is no AIHEC. Travel for the college is now at a standstill with SWC.

As I stated in our meeting, if your students do not have access to WIFI or a device, they need to contact our IT (Derrick Lawrence) to see if he can accommodate them temporarily. If the student does not have WIFI, our computer lab in the admissions area will be open. In fact, the west entrance will be the only door that is open. Access to certain parts of the college will be restricted to essential employees only.

I don't think I need to remind you of how important it is to make sure our students are fully informed. This is not a license to quit coming to school or attend classes. SWC is providing that access through eLearning...make good use of it and make sure you are spreading your expertise about to your colleagues and/or students.

Your immediate supervisor will deem your essential roles as to whether or not you do not have to be here on campus. For the most part, I believe we are all essential, but some of your work may be conducted from home. Supervisors will be expected to communicate this to their subordinates. For those employees that are of the "Higher Risk" population should try and reveal this to your immediate

supervisor. If you have question to whether you are of this population, look here <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/index.html> PLEASE take this seriously and keep your attention on CDC, not Mr. Bojangles from FB. We will do our best to keep you updated on a daily basis, but I too may slip a little.

Finally, lets pray this virus passes soon and we can go about our way of life, but more grateful for what we have.

Mitakuye owasin,

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