

March 26, 2020

Hau Mitakiyapi,

This email will not be comprehensive. I apologize in advance if I missed something. I will address it as time permits.

I hope you are well and enjoying your spring break. I am sure it seems like it is flying by too quickly. With all that is going on with COVID-19, I am sure that you feel as though you have missed out on plenty. I don't blame you, this virus isn't the most enjoyable event I have had to deal with in my short tenure here at Sisseton Wahpeton College. However, I am not going to let it stand in our way.

I want you to know that the faculty and staff have been working diligently to make sure your courses are being offered with little or no hesitations during this online transition. The reason we waited until March 17 to go online is to allow faculty and staff some time to prepare for online delivery. This isn't easy by any means...neither for faculty and staff or for you, the student. This endeavor will take each and every one of us in order to make sure it has been a success. I am confident we are fully capable of doing just that!

We have been watching the news, listening to the radio, and paying attention to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and this virus does not appear to be getting any better. As I stated earlier, SWC did not jump into immediate online delivery because it takes a lot of preparation. I am going to tell you now that in order for SWC to make sure you are getting the best education possible; I have decided to make the decision now to go Online for the remainder of the year. This will allow all instructors time to continue to prepare your courses and do it with yours and their safety in mind. This being said, I am afraid we will also be cancelling our 38th Annual Graduation. I am so sorry about this as I know many of you have worked diligently to get to this point. I promise we will do whatever we can to make this time memorable for you.

The students who were living in the dorms and have returned home for their spring breaks will not be returning to SWC Campus. Their belongings will be packed up and shipped back to their homes. We are sorry for this inconvenience, but it is our intention to help stop the spread of this COVID-19. Further details will be shared with you in another format.

Starting Monday March 27, we have 5 more weeks of classes. Make the best of them! Finish with flying colors!

Please make sure you get logged into your online (<https://online.swcollege.edu/>) courses and take care of the work required of you to make this semester successful! Please make sure you can access your online courses and if you cannot, contact Sonny Herrick, Kendall Miller, or Derrick Lawrence (<https://www.swcollege.edu/index.php/resources-services-info/support-staff-contacts>) .

I pray for your safety and well-being. Mitakuye owasin.

Toksta,

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