



Fresno City College

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Office of the President

February 26, 2021

Dear Fresno City College Community,

Over the past several months, the FCC Return to Campus Task Force has been working together to ensure the safe, phased-in return of in-person instruction and services. I am sure we can all agree that we have learned a lot during this pandemic. It is clear that we have become more determined than ever to serve our students and support one another. Now is the time for us to focus our efforts on what we have learned so when we do return, we can be a better institution. For Fresno City College, it is not about **when** we come back – it is about **how** we come back.

With the recent news that Fresno County will soon see an expansion in the number of people eligible to receive vaccines, many Fresno City College staff have reason to be excited about the return to normalcy. While it is true, more educators will be receiving the vaccine, to quote a recent Fresno Bee article, "...much of the focus on vaccines has been for teachers and school staff working in elementary and high schools." (Tim Sheehan, <https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article249468465.html>) Please know that all of our employees are eligible to receive the vaccine, if they so choose, starting Monday, March 1.

On February 16th, the Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education released a *Roadmap for Higher Education After the Pandemic*, that focuses on recovery **with** equity. The [Recovery with Equity Taskforce](#) was established in August 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom's Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education, Dr. Lande Ajose, in consultation with the [California Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education](#). The intent is to recast today's challenges as opportunities to help California's economy recover with a post-secondary ecosystem that is more equitable, resilient, coordinated, and aligned with the economic needs of the state.

We also have an opportunity to reshape how we deliver instruction and services. While the State has issued a new Roadmap for Higher Education, it will be up to us to return more resilient than before – more collaborative, transparent and aligned with the needs of our students and the economic needs of the state. We now know we can successfully serve students in-person and virtually. I believe we can blend delivery formats so we can more effectively serve our students, with equity embedded pedagogy and delivery systems, while creating and cultivating talent that enhances California's economic prosperity. I am a firm believer in the talent of our faculty, staff and administration and our unique ability to support each other as we learn together, recover and return.

As you all know, student success in higher education is critical to the health of our state and regional economies. Since struck by a global pandemic, colleges across the state have been grappling with extraordinary challenges. And long before the pandemic, it was clear that many students faced significant structural barriers to earning a college degree. California needs a recovery that courageously addresses inequities in post-secondary education that have created and exacerbated wealth gaps.

A College of the State Center Community College District.

This institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, handicap, religion, age or sexual orientation.

As the specifics for implementing in-person, phased-in instruction for fall 2021 semester continue to be refined at the local level over the coming months, we are committed to working together to determine the best path forward for our students, staff and each other. We are looking forward to the possibility

of offering more in-person classes in accordance with guidelines from the CDC, Governor's Council for Post-Secondary Education and local public health agencies. Our FCC Return to Campus Task Force has been working through the many details that must be considered in order to ensure that we taking a measured approach to bring students, faculty, staff and guests back safely to campus.

We all understand that Fresno City College will play an important role in our Valley's economic recovery from the pandemic—and in driving prosperity for California's future. Ultimately, our state will thrive when we eliminate income inequality and disparities of credential and degree attainment by race and geography, and we will continue to do our part in mitigating these gaps.

Our core values and guiding principles have served us well as we have planned for our return, and it would appear that they are also aligned with what is being asked of us:

- Ensure that our college and facilities provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, faculty and staff.
- Uphold Fresno City College's mission, goals and vision – to transform lives through education.
- Act consistently with our Ethics Statement.
- Continue serving as responsible stewards of public and private funding.
- Monitor campus onsite use – students, faculty and staff traffic.
- Monitor COVID-19 cases, local/state health updates.

You can learn more about the Task Force efforts and stay current on the latest developments by visiting our webpage at <https://www.fresnocitycollege.edu/covid-19/safe-return.html>.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the FCC Task Force Members, especially the co-chairs, Mr. Rodney Olsen, Biology Faculty member, and Mr. Omar Gutierrez, Vice President of Administrative Services.

As more information becomes available on new guidance from state and local officials, I am committed to sharing that information broadly. If you should have any questions or ideas you would like to share with the Task Force, please contact Melissa Llanes, Executive Assistant at Office of the Vice President of Administrative Services at melissa.llanes@fresnocitycollege.edu.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank each of you for your determination in serving students despite the challenges that you are facing. I am proud to work alongside you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Carole Goldsmith
President
Fresno City College