



COLORADO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CNCC Proactively Planning to Protect Students & Employees

Preparing necessary steps to mitigate spread of COVID-19

March 12, 2020 (Rio Blanco and Moffat County, CO) – To ensure the health and safety of campus communities across Colorado, the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) activated its emergency operations team focused on coordinating the system’s response with the CO Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the guidance provided by the Governor’s Office and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) on either CNCC campuses, preparation continues to receive the highest level of attention from college leaders and coordinating with system administration.

“The health and safety of our students and employees is our highest priority as we coordinate our response and take informed actions,” said Ron Granger, CNCC President.

Immediate actions taking place across both campuses include limitations on large group gatherings, implementation of restrictive travel policies, and the extension of Spring Break for students. Staff and faculty will return on March 23rd to utilize the extra time to transition appropriate courses from in-person to remote instruction and exams, and implement risk reduction plans tailored for each campus. At this time CNCC does not anticipate needing to transition to remote instruction but is planning appropriating in case it is necessary.

Due to varying institutional size, location, and programming across CNCC campuses, some courses may not be appropriate to transition to remote learning, such as dental hygiene and nursing labs. To provide students with the opportunity to continue their educations in which they have invested so much time, money, and effort, while ensuring safety for students in these career and technical education programs, courses will be held in spaces that allow for adequate social distancing.

CNCC has decided to cancel the monthly Community Networking meetings that were scheduled for Monday March 16th on the Craig Campus and Monday March 23rd on the Rangely Campus. A decisions on the CNCC Foundation Dinner scheduled for March 28th will be made by March 20th. For more information regarding the Foundation Dinner please contact Sue Samaniego or check the CNCC Facebook page.

“We are prepared for this fast-moving, fluid situation and are implementing appropriate plans at each of our colleges to keep our communities safe and avoid interference with student academic progress,” said Joe Garcia, CCCS Chancellor.

CCCS hopes to keep offices and colleges open, but also wants to ensure alignment with best practices to promote a healthy environment such as implementing plans to allow employees to work remotely and ensuring paid sick leave.

About the Colorado Community College System

[The Colorado Community College System](#) (CCCS) is the state’s largest system of higher education, delivering more than 1,000 programs to over 125,000 students annually through 13 colleges and 40 locations across Colorado. Our open access mission ensures all Coloradans who aspire to enrich their lives have access to quality higher education opportunities. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support to the colleges under the direction of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE). Join us in changing the way Colorado goes to college