



**SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT**

DR. DAVID VIAR

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford

May 11, 2020

Dear Students:

I have several important items to share with you.

1. Fall Semester Decision
2. Garfield Campus Noncredit Registration
3. Student Survey
4. Live Canvas Help

**Fall Semester Decision**

When the spring semester began in February, none of us could have imagined how quickly things would change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Remarkably, we adapted and transitioned into a new remote learning environment. While it has always been our hope to return to a state of normal, there are just too many variables and unknowns to allow us to do so.

This past weekend, we witnessed the reopening of some stores and our hiking trails, but we are still a long way from the removal of the current social distancing protocols. Therefore, out of concern for the safety of our students, our staff and the community, remote and online learning and student services will continue at GCC through the fall 2020 semester.

I encourage you to stay the course in your educational journey and register for fall credit classes when priority registration begins one week from today (May 18) followed by the open registration period beginning Monday, June 1. Be aware that remote classes will continue to meet during the days and times identified in the class schedule. We are also working to provide more opportunities to take courses that are fully online. We will continue to explore opportunities for hybrid classes that have limited face-to-face meetings as public health authorities provide more direction regarding physical distancing requirements. Our primary concern is for the safety of our students, our staff and our community; however, we remain committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students.

**Garfield Campus Noncredit Registration Begins May 18**

Our Garfield Campus successfully transitioned its noncredit courses to remote learning this spring and is now gearing up for summer registration which begins next Monday, May 18. Courses include Business Education, Parent Education and Life Skills. As always, these classes are free. [Click here for more information regarding Business and Continuing Education Courses at Garfield.](#)

### **Student Survey**

Moving to remote instruction and services has been a learning process for our faculty and staff. We strive to do the best we can, yet we recognize that there is always room for improvement. You can help us do better by participating in a survey of our credit and noncredit students. We want to know how we are doing, what is working, and what can we be doing better. We also want to know how you are doing. What resources would help you succeed during the pandemic? Not just academic resources, but basic needs as well. We hope to use the results of the survey to better support students during this unprecedented learning environment and to give us direction as restrictions are eased in the future. To participate click either credit student survey or noncredit student survey.

### **Live Canvas Help**

The Canvas learning management platform was a valuable educational resource before the pandemic and has now become an essential tool in providing remote instruction. Virtual class lectures, collaboration with other students, and the uploading of assignments all rely on the Canvas learning management system. If you have experienced difficulty accessing or understanding how to use Canvas, it is not too late to get help. The college has launched a virtual canvas help center through Zoom. You can get live help and speak to GCC staff and students who have the expertise to answer your questions and walk you through the process. The Canvas LIVE team is multilingual and can support you in languages other than English as well. Live Canvas Help hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please click the Live Canvas Help button on the Canvas website.

When this week ends, the month of May will be half over. If you maintain your focus during this final stretch, you will look back at this semester as one of great challenge and of great success.



David Viar  
Superintendent/President