



**SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT**

DR. DAVID VIAR

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

September 10, 2020

Dear Students,

The Fall Semester is off to a successful start and although we are barely two weeks into the new school year, I am contacting you to address the Winter Session and Spring Semester.

In May, we announced that remote instruction would continue into the 2020 Fall Semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our decision to make the announcement at such an early date was to allow you to make informed decisions about your educational goals. In that same spirit, I am announcing that we will continue remote instruction for the majority of classes through the 2021 Spring Semester.

To some, this announcement may appear counterintuitive, coming just days after many counties in California began easing segments of their COVID-19 restrictions. While it is certainly good news that some aspects of our lives are cautiously returning to normal, the challenges we face on a college campus require an abundance of caution to ensure that our students, faculty and staff remain safe. Inviting thousands of people to congregate for several hours a day in a relatively restricted space would be irresponsible.

Since priority enrollment does not begin until late October, we could certainly wait a few more weeks to see if Coronavirus infections wane, but medical experts continue to forecast a second wave of infections to arrive this fall and there is no information that suggests the pandemic will be under control in the near future. Rather than lose time hoping for change, we can focus these next few weeks on proper planning for the remainder of the school year.

In addition to making decisions based on safety, we must also consider the logistics of operating a college district with more than fifteen thousand students and staff. We are well into the planning stages for the Spring Semester during which we must lock in class schedules, publicize course offerings and determine the few classes that may be necessary to offer through in-person instruction. By committing to remote instruction now, we can focus on making the GCC educational experience as vibrant as possible. As I mentioned in my welcome video two weeks ago, we have moved past simply surviving academically, we are committed to thriving.

I thank all of our faculty and staff for embracing the challenges presented by the pandemic and making the most of the situation. And most importantly, I thank you, our students, for staying the course and pursuing your educational goals despite the many challenges we've faced in 2020. I admit it seems a bit strange to be talking about a semester that is more than four months away, but I believe that by creating certainty in these most uncertain times, we can all focus on our tasks at hand. For now that is making the Fall Semester as successful as possible.

At GCC we remain Ready and Able to serve your needs. Be sure to check out our remote instruction resource page [glendale.edu/remote](http://glendale.edu/remote) for useful links and tips to help you thrive during the following academic year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Viar'.

David Viar  
Superintendent/President