The Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

May 2020

Message from Vice Chancellor Miller

Reflections on the Spring and Thoughts on the Year Ahead

Our mountains are greening up, and the calendar says the end of the academic year is upon us. Only this year is a very different spring for our campus community. Normal isn't normal anymore.

As the pandemic interrupted our campus routines and all of our personal lives, I think it's remarkable how quickly the members of this division adapted to the challenges and worked to support our students in the face of significant disruptions. Thank you for being creative, resilient, and positive with your efforts. Please continue reaching out to
students and being attentive to them during these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Even under the best of circumstances, May can be a bittersweet time of year as we say goodbye to the graduates and to the students returning home for summer. Because of the pandemic, we missed the opportunity to celebrate and say goodbye with our traditional programs and events, but I know we’re sharing those farewells in other ways – in groups over Zoom or by one-on-one interactions. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and care as you invent ways to reach out.

With this academic year ending, please start thinking about the year that lies ahead. The UNC System has asked each campus to begin planning for the possible return to face-to-face instruction in the fall. In the weeks to come, our division will participate in discussions and planning for this option. I’m certain more unprecedented challenges loom ahead that we haven’t yet identified, but with your creativity, resiliency, and commitment to our students, we will team up to find answers together.

Thank you for making a difference for our students!

Sam Miller
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Message from the Chancellor

To Western Carolina University faculty and staff:

I write to share the latest guidance regarding special faculty and staff work provisions from the University of North Carolina System in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, received this afternoon. I again express my appreciation for all that you are doing during these trying times on behalf of Western Carolina University, our students, our campus community, and the region that we were founded to serve.

The newly issued guidelines for faculty and staff work and leave procedures extend the guidelines currently in effect through at least Friday, May 8. These guidelines are issued
in conjunction with Governor Roy Cooper’s recent extension of the “stay home, stay safe” executive order. Governor Cooper also has announced a plan to “re-open” the state using a three-phased process that will bring faculty and staff back to campus gradually and depending upon conditions as we go forward. While we do not know specifically how this will unfold for us at WCU, we do know that the university will not be opened back in one fell swoop. As has been our process, we will continue to follow the lead of Governor Cooper and UNC System leadership, and we will provide updated information as soon as is available.

In addition to the special leave provisions implemented by the UNC System during the pandemic, the recently enacted Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) provides faculty and staff with additional leave options for specific reasons related to COVID-19. Detailed information about the FFCRA and the options available for eligible faculty and staff will be shared directly with supervisors and will be posted on the university’s Employee Resources page.

Finally, I know this has not been easy. Our lives have been upended as we take the steps necessary to help lessen the spread of COVID-19. I want you all to know how extremely proud I am of the way this campus community has responded to these incredibly challenging times. I truly believe that we will emerge from this situation stronger than ever before as we continue to stay apart in order to stay together.

Sincerely,

Kelli R. Brown
Chancellor

**Chancellor Brown’s Year of Reflection**
Congratulations Graduates

As the semester comes to an end, we want to recognize our students’ accomplishments this year. Heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates and special kudos to the Higher Education Student Affairs graduates. Thank you for your hard work and service to our students and our division. We know you will leave a footprint in our profession!

Annual Award Nominations
The Division of Student Affairs 2020 awards recognize the work and achievements of individual people and programs that contribute to the division's success and have made a difference in the lives of our students. Please submit a nomination and celebrate that which makes our division successful – our people. Nominations will be accepted through May 31st, and recipients will be announced in June.

View Previous Recipients

Submit a Nomination

Student Affairs Office

The Student Affairs Office is moving from Scott East Residence Hall to HFR Administration Building in the space vacated by the Human Resources Office on the second floor. The move is currently scheduled for May 18 and 19.
HIGHER EDUCATION RELIEF FUND  
(CARES Act)

Students now have access to financial assistance through the *Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)*, a new federal grant program that is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or **CARES Act** funded through the US Department of Education. These emergency grant funds are available to eligible WCU students who are experiencing unexpected expenses or financial hardships that are directly related to changes in campus operations due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. For more information contact Trina Orr, Director of Financial Aid.

WCU and COVID-19 Resources
For Campus updates and employee resources related to the Coronavirus, please visit our [COVID-19 website](http://www.covid-19.com) for current information. Stay safe and be well.

**Campus Updates and Resources**

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**SGA Election Results**

The Student Government Association’s elections were held in March. Congratulations to all of the students who were voted to serve on SGA. The following students along with 33 elected senators will serve in their roles May 2020 - May 2021.
Student Body President: Dawson Spencer
Student Body Vice President: Aaron Speyer

Dawson Spencer

CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
May was designated as physical fitness and sports month in 1983 by the President’s Council on Fitness to promote healthy lifestyles among Americans and to improve our quality of life.

American leaders realized fitness was vital for citizens as early as 1956, when President Eisenhower created the President’s Council on Youth Fitness, renamed in the early 1960s by President Kennedy as the President’s Council on Physical Fitness to include people of all ages. The President’s Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition encourages everyone to **Move In May** but remember to practice social distancing while you are being active.

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month is a time to highlight the importance of staying active through sports and other fitness activities.

Campus Recreation and Wellness has developed a great slate of virtual programs. If you would like to get active, view their virtual programs by visiting: [https://www.wcu.edu/experience/campus-recreation/virtual-programs-services.aspx](https://www.wcu.edu/experience/campus-recreation/virtual-programs-services.aspx).
ZOOM
GROUP X
MAY SCHEDULE!
5/4-5/29
Join Us!
use the class specific meeting ID below at:
https://zoom.us/join
M/W/F: 163-199-134
TUES: 980-9653-2897
THURS: 986-5302-9990

WEEKLY SCHEDULE
MONDAY
ZUMBA WITH SLOAN
TUESDAY
PIYO WITH HOLLY
WEDNESDAY
ZUMBA WITH SLOAN
THURSDAY
YOGA WITH AMY
FRIDAY
ZUMBA WITH SLOAN

ALL CLASSES:
12PM-1PM

We want to hear from you! Click here to share your ideas for professional development, introduce new staff, conference presentations, awards, good news or general feedback for the newsletter.

CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS!

Welcome New Staff
Kyrsti Wyatt started May 1 as the Director of Student Community Ethics. Kyrsti is a graduate of Clemson University and the University of Phoenix where she obtained her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, respectively, in Psychology. She holds a graduate certificate in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School for Professional Psychology. Kyrsti joins WCU from Boise State University where she served as Assistant Dean of Students, overseeing the Student Rights and Responsibilities program. Outside of work, Kyrsti enjoys spending time with her spouse and daughter, kickboxing, and vacationing anywhere, but especially Disney Parks.
NEWS & UPDATES

ENROLLMENT

- ASP/GAP
- Virtual Tours
- Enrollment Update
- Virtual Orientation
- Financial Aid - FUSS Regulation Changes

Read more

HEALTH & WELLNESS
• Search Updates
• CRW Staff Evaluation
• Out of the Darkness
• CAPS Training
• Telehealth
• E-Prescriptions

Read more

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

• RSO Office Space
• SGA Inauguration
• ACE/BAC Shows and MOU
• CatCamp/FLI 2020
• RSO Registration

Read more

CAMPUS SERVICES
• On-campus Students
• Move-out Plan
• Dining Options
• Student Refunds
• Book Rental Returns
• Director of Bookstore Search

Read more

DEAN
of STUDENTS

• Project CARE Training
• ICA Graduation Program
• NPHC Officer Transition
• Code of Conduct
• DSCE Director

Read more
• Compliance Documents
• Legacy Walk
• Design Projects
• Professional Development
• Annual Dashboards due June 15

Read more

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE GO

inside track | insight

Working together to manage these trying times.
Coronavirus has upended the way we live, work, and play. Every aspect of higher education has been turned on its head, with no way of knowing what changes and challenges lie ahead. InsideTrack will offer expertise and support that can be used right away—including frequently updated student support resources. Here's a quick look at their current and upcoming resources.

Join a community chat on preparing for fall

FRIDAY MAY 8 • 10AM PDT / 1PM EDT

Here's your chance to share ideas with leaders from other schools on how to get ready for fall. Zoom format with breakout rooms is designed to create small, meaningful dialogues.

Join the Chat
Tap into our affiliate resources

As a member of the nonprofit Strada Educational Network, we have access to insights and research from our affiliates — and now you do too. Learn more on current higher ed issues from EMSI, Roadtrip Nation, College Confidential, Education at Work, and Strada.

See Resources

InsideTrack is now a nonprofit

Mission

Support Resources

REMINDERS

DSA IT COMMITTEE

Did you take your WCU computer home?
Are you compliant with WCU Auditing Standards? Check the status of your assigned IT Assets by clicking your asset list at the button on the left. If you have taken your WCU Computer home or to another off-site location, complete the asset removal process as soon as possible by clicking the button below.

Remove IT Asset from Campus
Professional Development

Please take advantage of the training opportunities available on campus:

HR Trainings
Talent & Professional Development
Diversity Related Trainings

Leadership Meetings

The Student Affairs Leadership team met virtually on April 7 and May 5. Meeting notes are below.

April 7th Meeting Notes

May 5th Meeting Notes

Thank You!

Thank you for your unwavering leadership, hard work, and support during the pandemic transition and global reset. May the new norm bring you peace, balance, and a renewed sense of purpose. The newsletter will resume in August. Wishing you all good health and a great summer!
MANAGING STRESS & ANXIETY ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

We encourage you to use the following 7 tips to manage stress or anxiety that can arise in the midst of uncertainty or fear about your or a loved one’s safety.

1. Acknowledge reactions. Allow yourself time to reflect on what you are feeling and how you may be reacting to any fears and uncertainties of the future.

2. Maintain your day-to-day normal activities and social outlets. Resist withdrawing and isolating yourself from the support and caring that others can provide.

3. Seek accurate information from “The Center for Disease Control & Prevention” and limit exposure to social media and news reports that provide no new information.

4. Pay attention to positive news instead of only focusing on negative and fear-producing reports.

5. Follow the protection and prevention tips given by medical professionals given by national medical authorities and your own medical doctor.

6. Practice calming rituals: Stay grounded in the present moment, which can help you maintain an internal sense of stability and balance when outside events feel threatening.

7. Seek supports & use campus resources. Reach out to friends and family and learn about campus resources available, if you or someone you know has high distress that does not seem to be lessening, talk about it with others or come to the counseling center. Your campus community is here to help.
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS.

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

UPCOMING DATES