Dear Friends,

The Northwest has had a truly challenging month with wildfires, smoke, and gale-force winds in many areas. Fortunately, it appears that the wildfires are beginning to die down, our air quality has greatly improved, and the debris from a recent LC Valley windstorm has been removed, so most of our students can settle in for what will be another great year at Lewis-Clark State.

I said most of our students because over 100 LCSC students live in areas directly impacted by the recent fires, and they are experiencing firsthand the devastation and difficulties such wildfires can cause. LCSC stands ready to offer support in any way we can to the students, their families, and their communities. In addition to extending deadlines and working directly with the students to provide accommodations, LCSC is leading relief initiatives that include a benefit concert for fire victims on Sept. 18 and an intramural fund drive. Both projects are spearheaded by the LC Cares Committee and more information is available at www.lcsc.edu.

The heavy smoke throughout the region made necessary the postponement of our annual outdoor Welcome Fair, now scheduled for Sept. 9. While the windstorm that ripped through the LC valley on Aug. 28 took much of the smoke away, a few of LCSC’s many trees fell victim to the gale. We take some consolation in the fact that no injuries were reported, no buildings were damaged, and the majority of our oldest and finest trees are still standing strong.

On a more positive note, despite the weather-related hubbub in August, the New Student Orientation programs held in Lewiston and at the Coeur d’Alene Center were great successes. With the highest number of incoming students since 2012, both events were well attended. Over 1,000 students and parents attended the Lewiston orientation, and both events went off without a hitch. I congratulate the Office Student Affairs and all others involved on a job well done.

Lewis-Clark State College continues to do its best to meet students where they are and guide them, with unparalleled personal attention, to where they want to go. In that spirit we have developed a new course, entitled “SD 192: Introduction to Online Coursework.” It is specifically designed to introduce students, both traditional and non-traditional, to online learning. Online coursework opens higher education doors previously unavailable to students because it helps overcome some of the hurdles of attending college such as long commutes or travel limitations, work schedules, and family obligations. At only $50, we’re hopeful anyone interested in going back to school, curious about taking online courses, or simply thinking about attending college for the first time will give this low-cost, high-reward one-credit course a try. For more information, contact the admissions office at 208-792-2210 or admissions@lcsc.edu.

And be sure to add LCSC’s 2015 Homecoming, Oct. 22-24, to your calendar. The three-day celebration will feature a host of happenings on and off campus including the Warrior baseball team’s national championship ring dinner, a reception at the President’s House, a wine tour, golf outing, and a number of athletic events. Look for more information, including registration details, to be posted at www.lcsc.edu by next week.

Wishing all of our students, faculty, and staff the best of luck this semester,

J. Anthony Fernandez
President