

# Monday Message

Feb. 21, 2022



## President's Message

Dear all,

As you may be aware, the State Board of Education (SBOE) commissioned the Office of the State Board (OSBE) to conduct a survey to try and get a feel for student perceptions regarding their postsecondary experience. All eight Idaho public institutions were included and nearly 55,000 students were sent the survey via their college/university email accounts. The overall response rate was 16%. The OSBE created a dashboard to share and display the survey findings. It can be found here: [SBOE survey](#).

Overall, findings across the state were positive and affirming in acknowledging that we, higher education, are creating and sustaining teaching and learning environments that support student success.

As you are likely also aware, beginning in 2019 LC State added an item to its annual all student survey to include a question designed to take the pulse of student perceptions regarding campus climate using a semantic differential scale. These survey results can be found on LC State's intranet: [LC State survey](#).

I asked our vice president of Institutional Research, Effectiveness and Planning, Dr. Grace Anderson, to prepare disaggregated summary highlights of the SBOE/OSBE survey findings and to crosswalk them to our own survey findings. This [summative report and crosswalk information](#) can be found on LC State's intranet.

The gist is that across both survey inquiries, despite the challenges of a polarizing pandemic, LC State students expressed sentiments of feeling that they belong, are valued and respected, and experience our campus environment as friendly and caring. Survey results further conveyed that LC State students do not feel bullied, nor perceive our campus culture as racist, sexist or homophobic; and do feel they can express themselves without fear of negative consequence and that the campus culture is inclusive.

These data affirm that despite a broader culture too often characterized by divisiveness, and with few exceptions, we are succeeding in creating and sustaining a campus culture and community within which students have the best possible opportunities to achieve their education goals, and move forward into their futures as successful leaders, engaged citizens and lifelong learners. That said, we cannot and will not rest or relax our efforts to ensure we are providing a student-centered teaching and learning environment that maximizes options and opportunities for success, across demographic and ideological backgrounds and perspectives. We have and will continue to:

- a. Respond appropriately to issues, concerns, feedback, etc. submitted via our anytime/all-the-time [Comments, Concerns and Compliments](#) anonymous web-based portal.
- b. Continue to annually survey our campus community, inclusive of our semantic differential scale to keep our finger on the pulse of student perceptions and experiences regarding our campus culture and climate.
- c. Renew and expand communication outreach efforts to ensure the campus community is aware of both the SBOE Academic Freedom and Responsibility Policy III.P., and avenues through which they can review "safeguards and policies" that protect their rights regarding freedom of expression.

We are and will remain committed to all members of our campus community.

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.  
President

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## Events

- **Feb. 22 – Tuesday at Two** – Due to President Pemberton attending a Walla Walla Community College leadership event, there will not be a Tuesday at Two on Feb. 22.
  - **March 24 – Ask & Answer** – Ask & Answer is Thursday, March 24, in the SUB from noon-1 p.m. This is a live, in-person opportunity to visit with President Pemberton, ask questions and share information. President Pemberton will treat the first 10 students in attendance to a free lunch that day.
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## Announcements

- **Coronavirus Updates & Risk Level:** For the latest coronavirus updates and information visit [www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus](http://www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus). In accordance with its [Operational Levels Matrix](#), LC State's current risk level is: Moderate.
  - **Cases Update:** Currently there are **3** active cases and **1** student in isolation in campus housing.
  - **Vaccine Availability:** To schedule an appointment with Public Health - Idaho North Central District visit [www.idahoprepmod.com](http://www.idahoprepmod.com) or call 208-799-3100.
  - **Reporting Line:** The college is maintaining the COVID-19 reporting line for students, and employees should continue to contact Human Resource Services if they are positive for COVID-19 or a close contact. The college's Coronavirus Dashboard will continue to be updated at least through the end of the spring 2022 semester.
  - **Surveillance Testing/Self-Screening:** The college is continuing with weekly surveillance testing. The free test kits are available at [several campus locations](#). Rapid tests are also available on a more limited basis to campus employees by contacting Human Resource Services. As we are "test driving" our mask optional/recommended protocol, it is even more important that people [self-screen for symptoms](#) of illness and test when symptoms surface.
  - **Mask Optional/Recommended:** As announced last week, Lewis-Clark State College is now test driving a mask option/recommended protocol. Key aspects of the protocol are listed below and full details are available on the coronavirus [spring outlook webpage](#).
    - Wearing face coverings continues to be allowable and is recommended, especially for individuals who are not vaccinated and boosted, per the [2-out-of-3 guidance](#). LC State has become a distribution center for free KN95 masks. The masks are available to all at these [campus locations](#).
    - Mask optional means that employees may require masks be worn in their classes and/or offices at their discretion. We are a campus community and, as such, caring for our community members must remain our priority.

- Faculty who require face coverings in their classes were asked to post an announcement of their intentions in their Canvas course and make classroom announcements last week.
  - We will monitor infection rate data, and should rates spike in response to this “test drive” and/or another virus variant surge, we will reinstitute the face covering requirement.
- **Kayak Pool Sessions:** On Feb. 22, March 8 and 22 there will be kayak sessions at the Aquatic Center in Clarkston at 7-8:30 p.m. for students, faculty and staff. This is a chance for kayakers to practice skills in the safety of a pool. Both first timers or seasoned pros welcome. [Register online](#) to reserve your spot, or contact [outdooradventures@lcsc.edu](mailto:outdooradventures@lcsc.edu) or call 208-792-2670.
  - **Introduction to Fly Tying:** On Feb. 25 from 2-3:30 p.m., join Outdoor Adventures and North 40 Fly Shop to learn about fly tying tools, materials, and a touch of entomology (the study of insects). No experience necessary. This is a free class that is open to students, staff, faculty, and community members. Seats are limited, [Sign Up](#) now to guarantee your spot. For questions contact [outdooradventures@lcsc.edu](mailto:outdooradventures@lcsc.edu) or 208-792-2670.
  - **Game Fest 2022:** Come down to the Williams Conference Center for a day of fun and excitement at the first annual LC Game Fest on March 5. Test your video gaming skills, win some prizes, and have fun. Raffle prizes will be given out all day to attendees, and free food and drink will be provided. Over \$2,000 worth of prizes will be available to attendees. Find more information and [register online here](#).
  - **Seeding Our Tomorrows:** Kudos to our Movement & Sport Sciences student club and the faculty/staff who helped coordinate tours and activities for 5th-8th grade students and their teachers from Cornerstone Christian School this past week. The science-based activities were engaging and loads of fun – who knew how much energy a single red gummy bear produced! Pretty amazing!
  - **Campus Song for the Week:** “[Morning has Broken](#)” by Cat Stevens

