

Monday Message

Feb. 15, 2021



President's Message: Happy Monday all. Thank you for hanging in there with our altered spring 2021 calendar/schedule, as we work together to do all we can to minimize contagion transmission risk potential and opportunities (e.g., steadfastly working through the February holiday and moving spring break to the end of the semester. Please note: both of these changes are allowed per SBOE policy and were approved via SBOE consult prior to implementation). As has been my practice these past couple messages, below you will find further excerpts from our LC State January 2021 JFAC testimony; and, let me say yet again, be proud Warriors. Be proud.

Regarding **successes** ... LC State currently offers over 30 online degree or certificate programs, including many designed specifically for working adults as a part of our "LC Works for Working Adults" initiative – an initiative that will likely be increasingly timely and relevant as we move forward beyond the pandemic.

And ... we found out this past summer – based on a statewide online course/program survey, that LC State is Idaho's online bachelor's degree leader, providing **nearly half of the State's current total of 43 fully online bachelor's programs** (we currently have 20 fully online bachelor's degree programs). Additionally, we are partnering, collaborating and leveraging our collective statewide online offerings and strengths, in and through Online Idaho – our State's just-launched online marketplace and course, program, degree access portal.

We continue to outpace our targets in terms of bachelor's degree production, and are confident certificate and associate degree production will rebound with the opening and operation of the Schweitzer CTE Center. **Overall, LC State has increased its degree production by 67 percent, since graduating 523 students a decade ago in 2010, and 873 students in 2020.**

As to **challenges** ... while our grad rates have been improving, they are not yet where we want them to be. That said, schools and students are too often judged by arbitrary definitions of what is "on time" and what isn't. Yes, of course, we value, encourage and support swift completion of certificates and degrees; but given our student demographics (first gen, low income, 56 percent reporting that they are working at least 10 hours per week up to full-time, while also attending school), as long as the trend is improving, driven and supported by our ongoing commitment to the SBOE Complete College America initiative, and wraparound student advising and supports, I maintain that I and we **are proud to serve these students at whatever pace works for them.**

Lastly, I'd like to mention a **few highlights not reflected in the report.**

- In 2020 (despite the pandemic) our Workforce Training served nearly 3,000 students with a 95 percent successful course completion rate.
- Our SBDC served 420 clients for a total of over 2,000 consulting hours.
- Our **Adult Learning Center helped 55 students complete their GED.**
- And we served over 1,200 dual credit students from 20 different high schools.

I am proud of what we do; and I am proud of what we accomplish; and I thank you for this opportunity to shed light on some of our successes as well as our challenges; and know, in fact be assured, we have not been sitting idly, wringing our hands just waiting for the pandemic to be over. **We have been active. We have been engaged. And we, LC State, continue to deliver.**

P.S. Reminder to refer to our [Inclement Weather guidelines](#). With 100 percent class use of our Canvas LMS and various technology upgrades, remote instruction (if needed) should be relatively seamless. Stay safe all. C

Events

- **Feb. 15 – Leadership Series** – Leader Spotlight: President Pemberton to speak on “The Difference – Difference Makes Women in Leadership.” Monday, Feb. 15, at 3 p.m. Limited seating in SUB 143 or attend [online](#).
- **Feb. 16 – Tuesdays at Two** – President Pemberton’s Tuesdays at Two will continue through Zoom (<https://lscs.zoom.us/j/861031866>). All are welcome to join the conversation.
- **April 9 – Faculty & Staff Recognition** – Mark your calendars for the Faculty & Staff Recognition Event on Friday, April 9, at 12:30 p.m. This year’s event will be held in the Silverthorne for the award recipients (contingent upon COVID-19 realities). The campus community will be invited to watch via live stream.

Announcements

- **Coronavirus Updates & Risk Level:** For the latest coronavirus updates and information visit www.lscs.edu/coronavirus. The page will continue to be updated with resources and FAQs. In accordance with its [Operational Levels](#), LC State’s current risk level is: Minimal.
 - **Cases Update:** Currently there are **no** active cases and **no** students in isolation in campus housing. The college has had **19** confirmed cases this spring. For the latest numbers visit the coronavirus webpage.
 - **Testing:** The next COVID-19 testing clinic will be on Friday, Feb. 19, from 2-6 p.m. in the Williams Conference Center. Students living in campus residences must sign up for a test time and will use the Aura app to do so. This is the same app used for January testing. All other students, faculty, or staff who wish to take advantage of this testing opportunity should contact Nicole Meyer, assistant director of Residence Life, at njmeyer@lscs.edu for assistance with the registration process. There is no out-of-pocket cost for these tests. Subsequent testing is scheduled in the Williams Conference Center on March 19 and April 16.
- **Feb. 15** – The campus is open today, Feb. 15, President’s Day. In trade, there will be no classes on March 10. The campus will be open on March 10 but will be minimally staffed. Supervisors will need to plan accordingly to be open on March 10.
- **Website Launch** – The new LC State website will go live late in the afternoon of Feb. 18. Due to how different computers and internet service providers cache websites, it may take a day or two before some computers display the new website.
- **Women’s Leadership Conference:** The Women’s Leadership Conference (a faculty, staff and student volunteer event) will be held virtually on March 5, 2021. [Register for event](#).
- **AUE, Commencement, World Series:** Protocol-compliant versions of Art Under the Elms (April 23-25), multiple outside commencement ceremonies (May 14), and the Avista NAIA World Series (May 28-June 4) are being planned. Plan execution and delivery will be dependent upon Public Health and State guidelines. Stay tuned for more information and details over the coming weeks.

- **Schweitzer CTE Center Tours:** Want to check out LC State's Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center? Stop by anytime during business hours and pick up a self-guided tour flyer at the main lobby desk.
- **Faculty Survey Results:** Thank you to the faculty respondents of our Instructional Delivery Methods Faculty Survey. Results are now posted on the Intranet: <http://intranet.lcsc.edu/ir/IRintranet/Survey/Survey.html>. Two surveys were conducted to gauge how comfortable and prepared faculty felt teaching each instructional delivery method amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The first survey was administered before fall 2020 classes began, and the second survey was conducted as the instructional delivery methods transitioned over the semester.
- **HR Updates:** For Warrior Wellness and Professional Development opportunities [view this week's flyer](#). Also, the PA and PRC forms have been updated and can be accessed on the [HR Forms](#) page.
- **Cybersecurity Training:** Tuesday, Feb. 16, all employees will receive an email from cybertraining@dhr.idaho.gov to complete an updated Cybersecurity Training. Please do not discard this email as spam, this is a legitimate email and action will need to be taken as this training completion is due March 31, 2021.

