Does the coronavirus situation continues to evolve rapidly, I want you to know that Lewis-Clark State College is focused on the health and wellbeing of its students, employees, and community members. We have a solid preparedness plan in place and we are working closely with the State of Idaho, our sister institutions, and health agencies. Additionally, despite these challenging times, we are working hard to find innovative ways to continue to deliver instruction and move students forward on their education paths. We will get through this, Warriors. And, as they have for 127 years, our students will succeed.

As of Monday morning, it was reported that Idaho has five confirmed cases of the virus (coronavirus.idaho.gov). While these cases are in southern Idaho, it is imperative that all of us take the necessary precautions to stay healthy and informed. Please check your email often along with www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus.

Two important updates I want to directly share with you relate to the transition from face-to-face classes to distance-based instruction and commencement.

LC State will be transitioning to distance-based instruction on Wednesday, March 18. Yes, this represents a change from the originally stated plan, but I simply believe it's what we need to do at this time. We have incredible faculty and I'm confident they will continue instruction that gives students what they need to learn and progress. I understand that this transition will not be without challenges though, and as such, I thank you all for your efforts, patience, understanding and support.

After much deliberation and consultation with health professionals, we have also decided that LC State will not hold commencement ceremonies this spring. This was not an easy decision. I understand that commencement is one of the most cherished and memorable moments in a student’s academic journey. Unfortunately, this spring we will have to forgo the tradition. Please know that we are currently looking at other options – perhaps even a commencement ceremony at a later date.

More information on these topics and other common questions is listed below.

**Transition to distance-learning on Wednesday, March 18**
After testing its distance-learning options on Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17, the college will transition immediately to distance-learning instruction on Wednesday, March 18. Faculty will continue to communicate details directly to students for how instruction will continue for the remainder of the semester.

**What about technical programs, labs, and other very hands-on courses?**
While most LC State coursework will transition to distance-learning options, professors of classes that are largely dependent upon hands-on coursework, such as labs and trade-based technical programs, will work with students to ensure they receive the instruction they need in order to complete their classwork. Such accommodations will include the implementation of Clean Zone and Social Distancing Protocols, as described below.

**What is the college’s protocol for Clean Zones and Social Distancing?**
In order to prevent spread of coronavirus and also accommodate coursework necessary to continue instruction, LC State has implemented Social Distancing and Clean Zone protocols. These protocols are
a part of the college’s [March 16 Action Plan (PDF)]. We ask all employees and students to review this
document and follow the guidance closely.

**When the campus transitions to distance-learning options, will campus services continue?**
Yes. For more details see the [March 16 Action Plan (PDF)]. Students who leave for spring break (March
30-April 3) are asked to not return to campus and to complete the semester remotely.

**Will students still be able to complete course credits and graduate this spring?**
Yes. Though a commencement ceremony this spring will not take place, students will continue to
complete course credits and those who are eligible to graduate will receive their diplomas. Additionally,
alternate ceremony options are currently under consideration.

**What events have been cancelled or postponed?**
In accordance with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention], all face-to-face LC
State events and gatherings of 50 people or more have been cancelled or postponed.

**Additional questions**
For additional questions and more detailed information please visit [www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus], review the
college’s [March 16 Action Plan (PDF)], or email coronavirus@lcsc.edu.

Lewis-Clark State College cares about you. I care about you. While always putting health and safety first,
we will do everything we can in order to help students succeed and achieve their education goals despite
these challenging times.

We have a team of dedicated administrators and staff members who continue to work through all hours of
the day, faculty are working to come up with creative solutions to continue the delivery of instruction, and
our students continue to show great patience, understanding, and support. We will get through this

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.
President