Dear fall 2020 students,

As we gear up for the fall 2020 semester, which will start just over a month from now, you may be wondering what the LC State experience will be both inside and outside the classroom now that we are nearly five months into the coronavirus pandemic. We announced weeks ago that we intend to start the semester with our usual mix of course delivery options – live lectures and labs, hybrid courses that blend online and live delivery, and courses taught completely online. These plans have not changed, though we have taken some additional steps in an effort to mitigate the risks associated with the pandemic.

**Face Coverings**

Wearing face coverings is strongly encouraged by health officials and, in an effort to promote the safety and well-being of our campus community, LC State will require students, faculty, and staff to wear face coverings while in campus buildings and classrooms. Face coverings are not required if people are socially distanced (6 feet or greater) while outside or for those who have documented medically-based reasons for not wearing them. Students requiring a medically-based accommodation to be excused from wearing a face covering should contact Accessibility Services (www.lcsc.edu/accessibility-services) and provide appropriate documentation from a qualified medical provider.

**Classes and Classrooms**

To allow for social distancing in the classrooms themselves, we have moved many of our classes to larger spaces on campus. In other cases, lecture classes and labs will be taught with a modified method whereby part of the class is in a classroom with the professor while the other part of the class participates in real time via distance technology. Each faculty member will have their own rotation schedule and will explain how this will work via email before classes begin. Faculty members will utilize best instructional practices for the discipline they are teaching.

Note that classes will shift to remote delivery after Thanksgiving break. Services, including Residence Halls and Food Services, will continue to be available.

**Technology/Canvas**

You are encouraged to bring a laptop or other computer with a webcam and microphone. Internet connectivity on campus is widely available. If you do not have a laptop or other computer, there are some available for checkout. Access to the internet and to the aforementioned technology is essential for most classes at LC State.

Canvas is the learning management system we use to host and deliver our online classes. All classes you’ll take at LC State, regardless of the primary delivery method used for the class, will have content available in Canvas. For information on how to log in to Canvas, visit the [e-Learning Accessing Canvas webpage](www.lcsc.edu/e-learning.canvas/accessing-canvas). Once logged in, students can review the *Passport to Canvas* course located on their Canvas dashboard to get more familiar with how the LMS works before classes begin. Among the many tools embedded in Canvas is ‘Conferencing’, via BigBlueButton and/or Zoom. Students can anticipate using one or both of these platforms in the fall.
There are some specific guidelines offered to help you make Canvas work optimally. They can be found on our e-Learning Services website (www.lcsc.edu/e-learning/students/technology-specifications).

**Library**

The LC State Library has been designated as a “clean zone” and will be available to students who wish to use some of the smaller study rooms or otherwise access the internet while on campus. Of course, it will also be available for access to books, journals, and other traditional library resources.

**Residence Life/Campus Life**

For those who live in campus housing, you will notice some modifications to the layout of our rooms and community spaces. We’ve taken these steps in an effort to promote social distancing. If needed, we have also set aside spaces for students who show symptoms of illness or who may test positive for the coronavirus to isolate. For students who need to isolate, meals will be delivered.

We are planning to have a robust menu of student activities this fall. All are being planned such that social distancing and other cautionary measures can be implemented.

**Moving to Lewiston/Arriving to Campus**

If you are coming from a community or region where there has been widespread community transmission of the coronavirus, you should quarantine for 14 days prior to arriving to campus. For those who are living on campus, we may be able to accommodate early entry into our residence halls or campus houses. If a 14-day self-quarantine is not possible, you will need to observe the following self-screening protocol:

> Within 72-hours of your arrival to campus, if you have symptoms of illness including fever or chills, a persistent dry cough, loss of taste or smell, OR if you have had close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, please inform us ahead of your arrival so that we can work with you on an appropriate quarantine strategy upon your arrival.

**Health and Hygiene**

You will notice several signs on and in campus buildings outlining health tips and safety protocols. Be sure to read them and take the messages to heart. At the entrance of each building, we will have hand sanitizer stations and encourage you to use them. We also encourage the entire campus community to be vigilant about handwashing and staying home if they have signs or symptoms of illness.

**Communication**

Now more than ever, it is important to follow your LCMail messages, course bulletins posted in Canvas, and to monitor the college’s website. Your course instructors will correspond with you as the semester draws near about specific instructions related to your classes, about technology you’ll need to access your classes, and other information you’ll need to be successful in your fall classes. We’ll continue to provide updates about coronavirus protocols (www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus) on our website as well.

The fall 2020 semester may look and feel a little different than what you would have expected a year ago. But, there is every reason to look forward to the 20-21 academic year at LC State. Our approach this fall is another example of the steps our college is taking to prepare you for life after LC State where the ability to adapt and innovate are the hallmarks of successful careers and prosperous lives. We will continue to
monitor the state and regional coronavirus situation. If we need to change directions before or during the fall term, we will notify the campus community immediately. This has been and will continue to be a fluid situation. We are excited for the beginning of the academic year!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at 208-792-2218 or email at studentaffairs@lcsc.edu. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Hanson, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs