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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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March 11, 2020

Dear Pierpont Community:

With the growing cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) across the nation, Pierpont Community & Technical College (Pierpont) is proactively taking steps immediately to protect the health and well-being of our students and employees to help prevent the spread of the disease.

I want to emphasize that no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed within the state of West Virginia, as of noon on March 11, 2020 from the CDC website. Due to the overabundance of caution and care, Pierpont is actively taking the necessary steps to protect and reduce risk for our students, faculty, staff, and community.

One of the best ways to prevent the spread of viral illness is to minimize the circumstances in which individuals may interact and transmit disease. Below are several updates related to classes, travel, and campus events that will allow us to continue the education of our students while protecting our community.

Classroom Teaching

After Spring Break, classes at Pierpont Community & Technical College will resume via an online format beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. This format will remain in place through at least April 6, 2020; No in-person instruction will happen at this time; experiential learning, see below. Pierpont students will have limited access to some computer labs during this time. A schedule will be forthcoming. Students, please reach out to your instructors if you have any questions. Pierpont will continue to assess and monitor the COVID-19 situation and update the campus community accordingly.

Classes that are fully online and the online components of mostly and partially online classes will continue as scheduled.

Students in internships, apprenticeships, clinical practica, and or clinical education should consult the program director at Pierpont for more information.

Faculty members will receive specific information from their school's deans with respect to this transition shortly.

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College Operations

All employees are expected to work their normal schedules and should coordinate with their supervisors to determine their performance expectations and alternative work environments during this time. Student employees and their supervisors will be contacted by the student employment coordinator no later than close of business Friday.

For information concerning residence halls, campus apartments, and dining services, please contact Fairmont State University Office of Residential and Student Life at 304-367-4754.

College Events

All official college events, receptions, gatherings, and student activities are postponed until further notice. Some events may be offered in an alternative method. This includes Open House (April 4, 2020) and potential community events. Please visit Pierpont.edu for additional information.

Travel

All non-essential college-sponsored travel is suspended until further notice. This includes travel that has been previously pre-approved. Work with your supervisor and business office for travel cancellations.

Best Practice

Pierpont is practicing social distancing as recommended by the CDC. Anyone remaining on campus is encouraged to actively practice preventive measures, including appropriate social distancing and good hygiene practices. Please continue to employ these preventive practices to help curtail the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into your arm. Then wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Additional Resources

If you are experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, contact the 24/7 state-wide hotline at 800-887-4304.

For questions related to Pierpont's response to COVID-19, email coronavirus@pierpont.edu.

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Students, please remember our primary student health provider is Monongahela Valley Association of Health Centers located on Locust Ave. in Fairmont. Students need their current student identification to receive student services. Call ahead at 304-366-0700. Students can also consult their primary health provider.

Students, if you need additional support services, which may include online access, counseling, disability, and accommodations, please contact 304-367-4907.

Faculty and staff, you will receive more specific information from your supervisors concerning work locations and hours. Should you need more support, please remember that you may contact Reach EAP.

Your cooperation and collaboration will help us navigate this rapidly changing matter, and I thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Johnny M. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Johnny M. Moore, Ph.D.
President

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