



Office of the President

August 15, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The fall 2021 semester has arrived with a mixture of emotions. We look forward to seeing many of our colleagues and friends outside of Zoom, and we share our students' excitement as they come to campus for much-needed instruction and services. This week, some of our students will step foot on a college campus for the very first time, despite being college students for over a year. Many of our incoming freshmen will enter a physical classroom for the first time in nearly two years, with their last memories of high school taking place in a virtual setting. And while our students have always shown great resilience, the need for on-campus instruction and services is more critical than ever.

Collectively, we worked incredibly hard to prepare for our return to campus so that we can help our students succeed. Yet we know that we will have to navigate a variety of situations that test the mechanisms that we established to keep each other as safe as possible. The important work that we do is not easy, and it will take our collective effort to ensure that we have a successful fall semester and return to Campus.

Our [Return to Campus Plan](#) outlines the safety mechanisms that are intended to add layers of protection for our campus community, including physical distancing, face coverings, foot traffic flows, health screenings and wristbands, and engineering controls in our buildings. In addition, as you know, we are working on a vaccination/testing program that requires proof of vaccination or weekly testing requirements, in accordance with the mandates set forth by the Governor.

The District continues to take everyone's feedback into consideration while closely monitoring the public health situation. Please know that we have contingencies in place should it become critical that we re-evaluate our on-campus strategy at any time. Essential to these decisions are each of our union and constituent group leaders, who continue to participate in recurring campus leadership meetings.

Please join me in thanking Dennis Falcon (Faculty Senate President) Dr. Lynn Wang (CCFF President) Colleen McKinley (ACCME President), Irlanda Lopez (CSEA President), Cheryl Thury (Confidential Representative), Ninel Sutherland (Student Representative) and Vice Presidents Miranda, Perez, Lopez, and Flores-Church for their continued engagement, guidance, and leadership. I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the Board of Trustees, who continue to welcome feedback from all our constituent groups, taking various viewpoints into consideration as we navigate our return to campus.

Our students need the support of our campus community more than ever. Thank you for continuing to persevere and follow the safety guidelines. I wish you an excellent fall semester.

Jose

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent