

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Greetings from Montezuma,

I'm pleased to report that our first day of distance learning began yesterday. Not surprisingly, our students are demonstrating the resilience we would expect. So are our faculty and staff. We've all had a crash course in information technology and are thinking differently not only about IB delivery, but also about our experiential and residential programming and what they might look like when our contact with students is virtual. We're also interacting as a campus community in new ways. They say necessity is the mother of invention. We'll keep you informed as we "invent" UWC-USA in the era of COVID-19.



Here are some general updates:

- We know of a few cases of the COVID-19 virus within the UWC movement--a student, teacher, and parent from two different UWCs. We wish them a speedy recovery.
- There has been one case of COVID-19 in San Miguel County.
- There have been no cases of COVID-19 in our UWC-USA campus community to date; we continue to monitor students and employees.
- IB exams have been cancelled and our dean of academics has been in steady contact with students and parents to help them understand the options.
- The IB will be determining results based on externally assessed coursework, student predicted grades, and individual school data.
- As IB exams have been canceled, we will not be a testing site for students this spring. We will continue to monitor the situation in considering whether to be a testing site in November.
- Our experiential education program, which complements our academic and residential life programs, will begin tomorrow on online platforms; we are working with students and advisors to figure out how they will work.
- Many of our traditional experiential education programs involve working with local youth in Las Vegas. We're exploring ways that students can now engage their home communities all around the world in service or other activities.
- Our resident coordinators are still providing support for our students while also working on campus-based tasks to support the work of the school.
- We moved to a remote work model as soon as all students were off campus. We will continue with this for those who can work remotely, even as we will continue to create the safest work environment possible for those employees who need to be on campus. Our goal is to keep everyone fully employed while advising employees of their rights and benefits.

- We are working to incorporate the changing guidelines coming from the state and federal level.
- We are currently planning to hold our summer programs for teachers.
- Our summer program for youth, Global Leadership Forum, has been cancelled. GLF attracts participants from around the world and we have determined that the pandemic will make travel too difficult for participants and staff.

Many people have been asking how they can help our students and the college. Your best wishes and strong support are tremendous morale boosters to our entire community -- thank you. The outpouring of community support, near and far, when we needed to move students off campus quickly was tremendous -- thank you. Your messages of support and encouragement, and the willingness to step up in so many ways across the United States and the world have sustained us -- thank you.

With best wishes for your health and well-being,

Victoria

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