

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Greetings from Montezuma

As always I hope this message finds you and your family well, wherever you are. We are well here in Montezuma, healthy and working to make sure we can keep our students and employees healthy when we return in the fall.



But first things first. In the next two weeks we're closing out our school year - and trying to do so with as much normalcy as possible under the circumstances: First-year students are completing final projects and taking exams. Second-year students are looking ahead to (virtual) graduation this weekend and their plans for next year. And while the faculty and staff are gearing up for a much needed break, we know we're facing a summer of planning that will be anything but normal. More about that at the end of this message.

In the meantime, here are a couple of updates about what is happening on campus:

- We will be hosting a virtual graduation this Saturday, May 23 at 10:30 MDT. Please look for the link to the virtual graduation [on our website](#) and on social media. This virtual graduation is meant to honor and supplement, not replace, the wonderful graduation our students planned together with staff before students departed campus this spring.
- We have a number of parent and family sessions planned for the coming two weeks. Tomorrow we will be spending an hour with parents and families of rising second-year students (class of 2021) sharing more details and answering questions about the next school year. We will also host a session with families of newly admitted students to share similar information. Invitations have been sent specifically to these parents.
- Food distributions from the farm and Sodexo will continue in June and July, pivoting to focus on providing more than 200 meals weekly to our partners at Samaritan House.
- We continue to collaborate with [100% Community](#) to support mask making efforts in San Miguel County. Students and employees (thank you, Aaron!) have donated hundreds of masks to local health workers, daycares, and people in need. Employees have been helping to make masks, donating fabric and elastic; the Senior Center in town is serving as a drop-off point for donations and a pick up point for those who need masks. Pat Leahan is distributing masks in town to medically vulnerable people and frontline medical workers. For more info, and to help out, go to www.uwc-usa.org/masks. It takes a village, as the saying goes!
- We are in the closing days of our Annual Fund drive as we work to meet the \$2 million gift threshold of the Davis Family Challenge Grant. Meeting this challenge isn't only about showing that we care as much about UWC-USA as the Davis family has over all these years; it's about showing we care about [providing scholarships](#) as

much as the Davis family does. Let's make Shelby and Gale and their generous family, as well as ourselves, proud of our commitment!

In closing, I'd like to share just a bit on our current and summer planning. The UWC-USA Board COVID Task Force, as well as our campus COVID-19 Nerve Center, are working closely on three basic areas of planning for a year that will include COVID-19: Education, Health, and our Financial Sustainability in the upcoming year. Our task is clear: make sure that we offer a high quality, culturally rich, humanly transformative UWC-USA educational experience--academic, experiential, residential--while also keeping our campus and local community safe and managing our resources responsibly. A clear task, but not simple. Our success in the coming year will truly be a test of our "microcosm of the world." Everyone will have a role to play.

Thank you again for all you do for UWC-USA and our students.

With gratitude,

Victoria
