

Subject: Update: HACC's Preparation for the Coronavirus – May 19, 2020
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 2:31:42 PM

Good afternoon, colleagues!

I was inspired by [this article](#) and would like to promote the random acts of kindness that you are extending to others outside of the HACC community. If you have shown kindness in some way during the pandemic, please submit your information through the online form on hacc.edu/Coronavirus. I believe what the article says about the powerful domino effect that can happen when we focus our efforts on being kind to one another.

As a reminder, employees are encouraged to do the following by May 21:

- Think of a word that describes HACC students
- Write the word on a piece of paper
- Secure a picture of you holding the sheet of paper (it can even be a selfie!)
- Upload your image to our #HACCtogether [form](#)

We will use your images to inspire and encourage our current and future HACC students. Some wonderful images have already been submitted. Thank you!

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the website, please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called “[Information for Employees](#).” If you would like to see the information being communicated to students, please see the webpage called “[Information for Students](#).”

We will continue to update you regularly via email, the aforementioned website and Zoom sessions.

Thank you!

John J. “Ski” Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.
Pronouns: He, Him, His
President & CEO
HACC, Central Pennsylvania’s Community College

1. Will HACC be closed on July 3 for Independence Day?

Since Independence Day is Saturday, July 4, the College will be open on Friday, July 3. Employees assigned to work on July 3 are expected to adhere to their normal schedule.

As a reminder, according to [SGP 814 Attendance, Absences and Holidays](#), “If the Independence Day holiday falls on a day when the College is closed, employees will be granted a floating holiday. The floating holiday may be used any time between July

1 and July 31 with the supervisor's approval and must be documented on the web timesheet.”

2. **Will students receive funds from the CARES Act? The act requires colleges to provide emergency aid to students enrolled in spring 2020 face-to-face classes. Do students have to sign up for the CARES Act?**

HACC has been allotted approximately \$4.5 million through the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) to be used as emergency financial aid grants paid directly to students. The monies are to provide cash grants to students for expenses related to disruptions to their education due to the COVID-19 outbreak, including course materials and technology, food, housing, health care and child care. The College has a taskforce working to develop a process that ensures the critical needs of students are met. The final plan will be shared with the College community when it is complete.

3. **With the research and studies referenced in this [article](#), I fear going back to campus in the fall due to the long-term impacts for people who contract the virus and recover. As a person in a high-risk category, contracting the virus and recovering could still have a negative impact on my health and longevity. I hope the task force deciding on the fall semester considers this information in their decision.**

The safety of our students and employees remains our top priority. The College's COVID-19 task force continues to work through a range of options for what our classes and services may look like for the fall 2020 semester. The health of our employees and students is the touchstone for every conversation, as is the need for flexibility to adapt to the evolving circumstances of COVID-19. The task force will continue to refine its planning in the coming weeks and the College plans to make announcements about the fall 2020 semester by mid-June.

4. **Do we have a standard, approved message for emails regarding the four-day work week beginning this week?**

Yes. The message follows. Thank you.

Greetings!

HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, is closed on Fridays during the summer. However, enrollment-related functions (admissions, Welcome Center, advising, financial aid and placement testing) will continue to operate five days a week. This work arrangement began May 18 and will end Aug. 17, 2020.

We appreciate your message and will respond as soon as possible upon our return to the office.

Please note: In response to the ongoing public health issues surrounding the coronavirus and to do our part in preventing its spread, HACC has closed its campuses.

Remote instruction and remote services are being provided for our students. During this time, we will communicate with you using technology. For more information, please visit hacc.edu/coronavirus.

Quote: The class of 2020 won't be defined by what we lost to this virus, but by how we responded to it. ~Malala Yousafzai