



Newsletter

April 3, 2020

Hello Mustang Faculty,

During this COVID-19 break in our traditional classroom environments, Norco College Online offers weekly newsletters designed to quickly highlight the news, resources and tips for you to enjoy.

Good News!

Congratulations, Mustangs! We've made it through Week #2 of this online academic enterprise. **Thank you** to the tireless efforts of students, staff, faculty, chairs, deans, vice presidents and President Green for pulling us all together and starting afresh in a new venue. This online transition reveals our pride, innovation and ingenuity. Mustangs cannot be stopped!

Visionary News!

Norco College Online exists from week to week. Spring 2020 is now fully online for all courses at Norco and in RCCD. When we started in February FLEX Day, who could have dreamed we would be this kind of Norco? While we are away from Campus, let's find ways to make the most of this new Norco. What can you do this week to improve your online experience? This weekly newsletter is our way to help you in this process of imagination and discovery.

Accessibility News!

Accessibility mentors are being trained, compensated and authorized to help Norco College faculty over the next few weeks. You probably noticed tools appearing in your courses including ALLY, Canvas Accessibility Checker and UDOIT. You do not have to be experts in the Americans with Disabilities Act to use these tools and to improve your course design. They will ensure your compliance with ADA to save you hours of research. Contact your department chair if you would like to meet an Accessibility mentor. Mentors will walk you through each step of this process to ensure students may continue instruction with access, equity and success.

Departmental News!

In order to support all faculty at Norco, each department has identified lead faculty with experience in online education to assist you with design, administration and assessment of your Canvas courses. Please reach out to your department chair for details. Norco has you covered in the disciplinary, department, School and District levels.

ABC's of Online Education

Weekly online instruction raises new opportunities and challenges. Here is the second installment of tips for your classrooms. May these DEFs help inspire you in the next week!

- **3 D's – Define, Demonstrate and Describe.** Make evident what you need students to do in class to be successful from week to week. Online education is most successful when instructions are clear and easy to understand. Consider using videos to demonstrate the skill requested in addition to typed content inside discussion board, announcements and/or assignments.
- **E – Elevate** your teaching by incorporating novel ways to challenge students to engage the materials and each other. Find interesting Apps such as Flipgrid, Pronto or TechSmith Relay to increase class interaction and collaboration
- **F – Fulcrum.** Balance is the key to endurance in online education. You can't, and shouldn't, be online all the time. Set boundaries for yourself and your students. Clarify times for online communication and instruction versus offline assignments. Offer students the opportunity to experience education in their own community, environment or family. Let offline learning balance online learning to make a well-rounded approach to your subject. Students may learn to enjoy sharing their discoveries while online from these teaching moments in daily life.

May you have a week of clarity, creativity and balance in your Norco College Online courses!

In Solidarity,

Norco College Online

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