



Newsletter

June 5, 2020

Hello Mustang Faculty,

During this COVID-19 break in our traditional classroom environments, Norco College Online offers these weekly newsletters aimed at quickly highlighting the news, resources and tips that might help you to settle into this online transition.

BREAKING NEWS!

Well, not really “Breaking” but “Ongoing.”

Please remember that the:

2020 [Online Teaching Conference](#)

Will be available for FREE on June 17-19, 2020! This is a terrific opportunity, so please take advantage of it if you are able. After a very challenging semester of transitioning your courses to the online modality, this conference is highly recommended for gaining insight and inspiration from an annual nationwide convening of online professionals. If you are eager to see what can be improved for Fall 2020 and what current online tools are readily available; if you are lost in how to continue transitioning your courses to Canvas; if you want to meet other inspiring online educators and gain some great new ideas, seize the moment! Why wait for Fall 2020 FLEX training? Why not [register today](#) and see what other professional online educators recommend?

Tools, tips or links to know:

How can I help make my class engaging to my students?

Below is a direct link to a site specifically geared towards helping you develop a strategy by which you can actively engage your online students. It can help you utilize apps, create discussions, incorporate videos and much more!

[Canvas Engagement](#)

Student Stimulus Act

During these incredibly challenging times we must find efficient ways of stimulating our students to engage actively in this new virtual world of academia. We need to make them feel valued and successful, a thing that was so easy to do in person using the old traditional face-to-face modality. As educators, we should strive to be creative and discover ways, using research, collaboration and innovation, to establish effective means by which to encourage our students to strive for excellence in the new virtual classroom. We all have our own individual teaching styles when we are lecturing and facilitating laboratory time. Now that some of the proverbial dust from the initial shock and very sudden changes brought on by this surreal situation has started to settle, we find ourselves returning to the time when we were establishing our teaching methods and pedagogical approaches.

It therefore would seem like a fantastic opportunity to step back and reflect on who we now are as educators in the virtual environment. How we can establish and exercise our new online personalities as those who guide, stimulate and uplift our students so they can avoid the potential feelings of “dropping off the radar” and “falling through the slats.” We can give our students grace. We can give them time. We can give them hope. We can give each of our individual students an opportunity to reflect on who they are as a learner and, as that same proverbial dust is settling for them, where they are now going on their educational journey and how to navigate the path.

We know how many of our own professors and mentors made lasting and fundamental impressions on us that we will never forget. We must realize that we are now doing the same for many of our students and they will always remember who their professors were during this life-changing time. Many of them are struggling with so many different things it is hard to imagine what they must be going through. Remember, our relationships with our students can be a bright light in a dark world, and they will remember us for that light for the rest of their lives. So let us find ways of stimulating our students and providing them with something that will keep them afloat instead of sinking into the murky waters of a global pandemic.

**“And, when I am forgotten, as I shall be,
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no mention
Of me more must be heard of, say, I taught thee...”**

William Shakespeare

Henry VIII

III, ii

5 – 7

(Wolsey)

Communication Encouragement for Students

Email versus Chat: To promote student success using written communication skills with their professors and colleagues, both in the present and in their future, it might be prudent to help the students distinguish between the casualness of “**chat**” and “**texting**” versus the more formal mode of **email** correspondence. We know that chatting and texting people tend to use a mode of communication that is nearly exactly as that which we use when we speak in person. Ideally, students might learn that when we use email correctly one should use a salutation (even if it is just the recipient’s name) and a closing (even if it is just the student’s own name). This practice can only help the student in future written communication situations.

We Did It!

Breathe. Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back, and if you can, hug yourself. You should be very proud of the tremendous feat you have accomplished these past few months. Your students will always be grateful to you for your Norco College spirit of support, encouragement and guidance! Have a great summer, whatever you have planned...

In Solidarity,

Norco College Online

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[Distance Education Committee](#)

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