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October 2, 2020

Dear Students:

We have now completed one month of instruction for the fall semester with a commitment to complete the entire academic school year in a remote learning environment. During this time, I occasionally will send you letters to keep you informed of important announcements and make you aware of resources to help you succeed. I encourage you to read the entire letter, but I have listed the following topics if you prefer to scan through the contents:

1. Assault on Artsakh
2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
3. Access to Computer and Internet
4. Library Resources
5. Free Online Tutoring
6. Garfield Campus Welcome Center
7. Parking Permit Refund

Assault on Artsakh

The year 2020 has been filled with enormous challenges. Most recently, the attack by Azerbaijan forces on the Armenian Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh) is creating stress for many members of our GCC community. It is important that we are aware of and sensitive to the impact the violence along the border of Armenia and Azerbaijan is having on our friends, family, fellow students, and colleagues, especially those who may have family in the affected region. The violence is a reminder of the genocides and ethnic cleansings that have occurred and we must be vigilant to stop. Conflicts of this nature are rooted in tragic history which underscores the importance of education and a commitment from all of us to gain critical thinking and advocacy skills. While we may be physically distant, I want to assure you that we care and support you and remain committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. For those who are struggling with stress or the emotional toll, please take advantage of the counseling opportunities provided by our trained staff in the Student Health Center. Call 818-551-5189 to make an appointment or [click here](#) for more information. Garfield students seeking counseling should call 818-240-1000 ext. 5687.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

For many people, 2020 ushered in a reckoning on social inequity and systemic racism in America. GCC's Board, senior administrative leadership, and faculty and staff leaders recognize that Glendale Community College, as an educational institution and community resource, has a major role to play in ending racism and bias. We have committed to examining rigorously GCC policies, procedures, and practices to ensure GCC is advancing racial equity and social justice, and remedying identified systemic racism. Effective change will not happen overnight, but these are a few of the steps that we've taken since May:

- Held meetings, panels, and discussion groups to hear from students, faculty and staff on personal experiences of exclusion and insensitivity at GCC.
- Began revising and developing curriculum that embeds appropriate anti-racist, anti-bias content.
- Office of Student Affairs enhancing efforts to engage students of color in campus programs and resources.
- Human Resources reviewing and revising Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) hiring training.
- The Academic Affairs Committee and Curriculum and Instruction Committee adopted a standing agenda item to take concrete actions to address systemic racism and bias, and to effectively address the progress of the college in tackling these issues.

That last item is key. Deconstructing systemic racism will be a long, and at times, painful process. It is imperative that we monitor our progress and are held accountable for true lasting change. There are many more steps to come, but I believe GCC and other community colleges can be a leading force for change.

Access to Computer and Internet

For those of you who have limited, to no, Internet and/or computer access at home, the GCC Library is in the process of obtaining more Wi-Fi hotspots, Chromebooks, and webcams for semester-long checkout to current students. You may get on the waitlist for a device by filling out the library device request form which you can find by [clicking here](#). A library staff member will contact you to set up an appointment when devices become available. Appointments are processed in the order they are received. Photo ID and masks are required for device pick-up.

Checking Out Library Books

You can now borrow books from the GCC Verdugo Campus Library in a safe, contactless manner. Please note that the physical library remains closed and books must be picked up by appointment only. For more information and instructions, [click here](#).

Remote Research Help Services

Do you have a research assignment or project this semester? Students can get live research help from an expert research librarian via chat, text, email, or Zoom! Get help by [clicking here](#).

Online Library Workshops

Need to find books and articles for your assignments and projects? Learn about how to research in the Library's self-paced, fully online, asynchronous workshops in Canvas. Get more info and [sign up here](#).

Free Online Tutoring

Whether you are struggling or already succeeding in your classes, The Learning Center can take you to the next level or make sure you stay on top of your game. The free online tutoring is for ALL students and covers most subjects from Anatomy to Zoology. Click "Free Online Tutoring" in any Canvas shell. [Click here](#) for a look at an extensive list of workshops for the remainder of the semester.

Garfield Campus Welcome Center

The GCC Garfield Campus continues to offer a vibrant collection of noncredit classes for the community. For any Garfield student who is struggling to begin or settle into their educational journey, please contact the [Garfield Campus Welcome Center](#). It also serves as the point of contact for referral of services and support. The Center is fully staffed by a multilingual classified staff who are committed to our students and programs.

Parking Permit Refund

If you still have a Verdugo Campus parking permit for Spring 2020, we have reopened a new application period for those who would like a refund. [Click this link](#) to fill out a pdf form which you will need to print and mail with your Spring 2020 parking permit to Glendale Community College/Tuition Office, 1500 N. Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA 91208. A refund check will be mailed to you within 4-6 weeks. Be sure to mail your request before the deadline on December 16, 2020. Please contact the [Student Fees Office](#) if you have any questions. New parking permits will be available for purchase when in-person instruction eventually resumes on campus.

I recognize that I've shared a lot of information, but our goal is to reduce the amount of emails cluttering your inbox so you can focus on your studies. Look for another email in a few weeks. Let us continue together our efforts to make this school year a success.



David Viar
Superintendent/President