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April 20, 2021

Dear Students,

Spring break has ended and we move into the final eight weeks of the spring 2021 semester. As we do so, many are asking, “when will we return to in-person, on-campus life at GCC?” Recent news headlines quoted the Governor saying California will reopen on June 15, 2021. Yet, deep in the articles they state reopening is subject to state and local guidelines; and the level of COVID-19 cases and vaccinations. Therefore, at GCC we continue to plan for several return to campus scenarios that range from strict safety protocols to a more relaxed approach.

A colleague at another community college suggested to me that we view the question of reopening like a light switch. But, instead of thinking simply of on or off, we think of a dimmer switch. At GCC, all our planning is based on that gradual approach - one where the educational access and success of our students and the safety of our students, employees, and community members remain top priorities. Therefore, we will continue primarily in a remote learning and work environment through the fall 2021 semester while engaged in a gradual transition of on-site course offerings and student services that meet all health and safety protocols and assure full student access.

College leaders and various groups have been working to address a number of scenarios. Plans for a safe and viable return to the college will be presented and questions addressed on April 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at a Zoom town hall, hosted by faculty (Glendale College Guild) and Associated Students. The town hall is open to all employees and students. We will have more details in the coming days.

In spite of the uncertainty, what continues to be certain is the ability, dedication, creativity, and perseverance shown by the GCC faculty, classified staff, and administrators in serving you and staying focused on student access and success. Throughout this past year we have learned of new ways to meet our students’ needs and it is essential, as we adjust the “dimmer switch,” that we return in a way that offers our students and employees more choices. Thank you for striving to achieve your educational goals over the past fourteen months and for proving that, no matter the crisis, GCC is ready and able and learning how to be better.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Viar'.

David Viar
Superintendent/President