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February 18, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Today I will be sending a letter to all GCC students informing them that Glendale Community College will continue to conduct credit and noncredit classes in a remote learning environment through the 2021 summer session (June 14 – August 20, 2021) and fall semester (August 30 – December 15, 2021).

In recent weeks, there has been encouraging progress in the nationwide coronavirus vaccination effort, but the nation and our community are a long way from reaching the point where we can safely bring students and significant numbers of employees back to our Verdugo, Garfield, and Professional Development campuses. The well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and community is our number one priority and forms the foundation of our decision-making process.

In addition to making decisions based on safety, we must also consider the logistics of operating a college district with more than fifteen thousand students and staff. This includes establishing class schedules, publicizing course offerings and determining the few classes that may be necessary to offer through in-person instruction. By committing to remote instruction now, we can focus on making our students' GCC educational experience successful and work to implement the innovative strategies that will help them reach their educational goals in a vibrant and challenging environment.

Our GCC faculty and staff have done a remarkable job creating an engaging curriculum for remote instruction and valuable student services that meet the needs of our students. A recent survey of our students indicated that the vast majority of them reported doing well to very well in the remote learning environment. However, we are committed to doing better for the up to 14 percent of students that said they were experiencing difficulties. We want to ensure all students receive the support they need to succeed and thrive.

If you know of a student who is struggling, please encourage them to take advantage of our remote instruction resource page glendale.edu/remote for useful links and tips. If you suspect they may require more personal assistance, do not hesitate to direct them to our [academic counselors](#) or [mental health counselors](#).

You have proven your resilience and abilities to be flexible and focused on serving the needs of our students. As we move forward through the spring 2021 semester, we will continue our efforts to provide all faculty and staff the support you need to fulfill your important roles creating a positive learning environment. Through our college governance processes we will be assessing regularly the COVID-19 health directives of state and county officials, planning accordingly, and making changes as necessary. We will be prepared to join you in a return to our campuses.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the college leadership, thanks for all you are doing.

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

David Viar
Superintendent/President