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Greetings!

Much of our time and attention last week was focused on discussions regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Our team has worked hard to support the health and safety of our campus communities, while also supporting our mission. We are closely monitoring the shifting situation. We appreciate the diligence of Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, Josh Vesper, who has been key in our response. We are also grateful for the advice and partnership of the Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD).

On Monday morning, we will hold an Open Forum in the Plex. If you would like to participate, you are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. We will share our most recent perspective on the evolving impact of the pandemic on our campus communities. More importantly, we will address your questions and concerns to the best of our ability. As you know, this is a dynamic situation.

As you should have already seen in previous communications, we are asking WNCC faculty members to begin transitioning courses to an online environment whenever practical. This allows us to begin implementing social distancing without negatively impacting quality of instruction. For some, this is an easy task. For others, it is not. We plan to offer additional training to faculty and we recognize that some material simply must be taught face-to-face. We also know some students are not ready for online instruction and we are finding ways to support them through this transition. Thank you all for your efforts.

We have a Board of Governors meeting this week on Wednesday and another Open Forum is scheduled for Thursday afternoon. During this session, the Foundation plans to hold drawings related to Foundation Awareness Month following my Board updates. If you would like to join us, please come by or tune in virtually through Zoom. There will be plenty of time for additional questions and discussion related to our COVID-19 response.

Please join me in thanking the administrative team for their tireless work last week. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or insights to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great week!

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.
President