

WEEKLY UPDATE



May 18, 2020

Happy Monday!

And so, it begins. We are starting a gentle transition back to campus. Please join me in thanking Josh Vesper, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator, for providing a few guidelines for us to follow. The message shared with us by Kathy Ault in Human Resources last Thursday, which included these guidelines, was much-appreciated. While we are not ready for the general public to join us yet, we are getting closer.

We are so fortunate to have recently had Amy Wisniewski leading our assessment efforts as our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Director at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC). As with all good things, though, this arrangement is sadly coming to an end. As many of you know, Amy has requested to return to the classroom and, after visiting with her in person this past week, we are reluctantly supporting her decision to shift her focus back to her students. Thank you, Amy, for visiting with me about potential alternative plans and, more importantly, *thank you for your leadership*. We are grateful that you have given us time to find a solution, as assessment plays a critical role in understanding and improving our institution.

Last Tuesday morning, we hosted our annual budget presentation and discussion. Vice President Lynne Koski led about thirty-five budget managers through a series of funding proposals. These requests, along with our salary lines, will form the basis of our general fund budget for the next fiscal year (FY21). Producing the required balanced budget may take some adjustments, which will be made over the next several weeks. One key consideration is our tradition of providing uniform total compensation increases for faculty and staff. Another is our commitment to honor the recent work of our National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) consultant, Dennis Jones, which was presented to the Board of Governors in December. Although state funding may be a bit uncertain due to the pandemic, we will undoubtedly find the right budget balance for WNCC going forward.

Lisa Gion from Human Resources has been working with my assistant, Susan Verbeck, on an updated organizational chart for WNCC. It has been posted to our website and is current as of [April 2020](#). While this chart does not include every position at the College, it does provide a high-level overview of our organizational structure. Recent changes with the bookstore and food service, which occurred earlier this semester, are shown. As a living document, this chart will continue to be updated as we move forward. Our renewed institutional focus on Partnerships and Inclusion, for example, will be reflected in the next version.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or insights to share, please let me know.

Hope you have a great week!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen M. Simone'.

Carmen M. Simone, Ph.D.
President

WNCC assures learning opportunities for all – **enriching** lives,
invigorating communities, **creating** futures