

PEACETIME STATE OF EMERGENCY 031320

Dear Minneapolis College Community,

The challenges we've faced the past few days due to COVID-19 will surely continue into the coming weeks. Yesterday the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Global Pandemic. The federal government has identified this as a National Emergency, and today Governor Walsh announced a Peacetime State of Emergency for the State of Minnesota. These announcements can be jarring and lead to anxiety. These actions enable us to focus our combined efforts on limiting the spread of COVID-19. All of us must take serious actions to stop the virus from spreading.

The Minneapolis College Emergency Operations Team has been preparing and have developed a framework for additional important planning to take place the week of March 16th. We are working to identify alternative modes of instruction and service delivery as appropriate, while keeping our employees and students safe.

Some changes may feel disruptive and impact your daily work-life. However, these actions will help us maintain wellness and continue campus operations so we can continue serving our students. These actions will require everyone's creative problem solving, collaboration, and agility.

This does not mean our work comes to a halt, however, some routine activities may be postponed as we give full attention to managing our response to COVID-19. Information changes on an hourly basis, and we do not know what we may be asked to do tomorrow. We do know we are all in this together and cannot be successful without each of us doing our part; we will endeavor to keep you informed as things continue to develop. Again, please watch for follow-up communications.

Our focus remains on keeping our employees and students safe. I am confident we can get through this together and emerge from this emergency a stronger more resilient community. Take good care of yourselves and each other.

Sharon