

Dear RCC Community,

As we near the end of another week of social distancing measures, we must stay the course and take pride in knowing that we are adapting successfully in ways we never thought possible. Change is always challenging. I have great admiration for how our college community adjusted so quickly and adapted so effectively to this change that was thrust upon us.

I know we all yearn for the time when we can return to campus. But I also know that we are doing the right thing for the right reasons. I am immensely proud of the efforts and contributions of our faculty and staff during this time of uncertainty.

During this pandemic, our sense of purpose has never been more clearly defined and we are taking every measure possible to continue serving our students and community while protecting the health of our students, faculty, staff, community, and this College.

There have been questions surrounding the Governor's stay-at-home order that is scheduled to end May 8 and how this will impact the College. As stated by the Governor, May 8, will initiate a three-phase plan for re-opening the state and we will use this plan to help guide our decisions regarding faculty and staff reporting to campus and the College returning to face-to-face instruction.

Phase One, which starts May 8, really does not change anything we are already doing at the College. We are currently working on an RCC plan for implementation for the following phases of gradually re-opening the College and I will keep you updated on those plans. Whatever our next steps may be and whenever we take them, it will be done with the highest regard for the safety and well-being of our faculty, staff, and students.

So, despite an uncertain future, this I know: I am incredibly proud of the sacrifices our faculty, staff and students have made and the great job you have done, even under adverse circumstances.

Our lifestyle has taken a hit during this pandemic, but RCC's mission has not. In fact, our community college will be crucial in helping to rebuild the economy of North Carolina. Together, our concerted efforts will create opportunities and change lives all while keeping our campuses safe and healthy.

With pride and gratitude for each of you.