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## SAVE THESE DATES

**PIN Leadership Summit**

**October 17-22 /2021**

**Maui College**



### **PIN PRESIDENT**

**Stuart Cullum**  
**President Olds College**  
**Olds**  
**Canada**

2020 will certainly be a year to remember - seems like an understatement given COVID-19. Beyond the significant health impacts, we have seen major social and economic impacts that are still being felt and likely will be for some time. Our institutions have had to adjust to the direct impacts (including to program delivery and workplace activity), respond to secondary impacts (such as funding uncertainty and broader policy direction) and have needed to consider our role in supporting the recovery of our communities. As our institutions have demonstrated their foundational value, the transformative effects of the pandemic are anticipated to be profound. What a year to remember indeed.

I believe that all PIN members can stand in solidarity in a collective purpose - to continue delivering the education and innovation programming that our society needs, while protecting the health and wellness of our students and campus communities. No doubt we have all responded in nuanced ways, however, COVID-19 has showcased our leadership, resilience and importance to our regions as they stabilize and recover.

On that note, this newsletter will focus on the success stories coming from our response to COVID-19. It will showcase the innovation of our teams and how our institutions are truly learning organizations. I know that our Institution has learned from others in our regional system and my hope is that this newsletter will be source of insight from our global system, with useful ideas and practices that can be applied toward that collective purpose.

Colleagues – thank you for your leadership in these dynamic times. Through PIN, I look forward to the many opportunities for sharing and learning in the months and years ahead. This includes through our upcoming webinar series, delivered in collaboration with the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics and next year's PIN Leadership Summit in Maui, hosted by Maui College, October 17- 22, 2021.

Stuart Cullum  
President Olds College  
Alberta Canada

# PIN Leadership Summit 2021 Maui

**Hold These Dates – PIN Leadership Summit  
Maui College  
October 17 – 22. 2021**

The PIN Leadership Summit will be themed around leadership for sustainable development and the role of vocational education institutions in a post-covid world.

More details will be provided in early 2021.

See you in Maui.



Postsecondary  
International  
Network



# Dr Jerry Weber

## Will be sadly missed

Dear PIN Members,

I am sad to report that long time PIN member and friend and colleague of many of us, Dr. Jerry Weber has passed away. Below is a lovely obituary – sourced by Dr. Bill Warner.

I was privileged to meet and learn from Jerry last fall at the PIN Leadership Summit, which he hosted at Bellevue College. I was impressed by his leadership, as was demonstrated through tremendous partnerships and bold initiatives, which will undoubtedly shape Bellevue for the better and for years to come. It is clear that Jerry has had a significant and positive impact on the institutions and people where he served, as well as on the broader system – including PIN. Jerry will be missed, but his legacy of impact will last for years to come.

Regards,

Stuart Cullum  
PIN President

Girard “Jerry” Weber, who over his career served as president of several community colleges and as a board member of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), died November 11 at age 70 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Weber most recently served as president of Bellevue College in Washington state from 2017 through this March. Prior to that, he was president of College of Lake County (CLC) in Illinois from 2009 to 2017, where he led environmental sustainability efforts that garnered him and the college national attention. In 2016, the college was recognized by AACC for its efforts to integrate sustainable practices and processes with a Green Genome Award. Weber also served as chair of AACC’s Presidents Sustainability Task Force and was as an adjunct faculty member at Harvard University in the continuing education program teaching executive education for sustainability leadership

“Dr. Weber’s leadership in international education and sustainability left an important, lasting legacy at CLC,” current President Lori Suddick said in a statement.

“As a colleague of Jerry’s, I know that I, along with so many of you, appreciated his warm personality and his passion for connecting with students. He will be missed.”

Jerry Weber, president of Bellevue College in Washington, chats with colleagues after a presentation at the 2018 AACC Annual Convention in Dallas. (Photo: Matthew Dembicki)

Weber began his community college career, which was mostly in Illinois, as a writing instructor at Harper College before joining John Wood Community College, where he held teaching and administrative positions. He then served as dean for academic support programs at Triton College and was the founding vice president of instruction at Heartland Community College. In 2001, he became president of Kankakee Community College (KCC), where he served until 2009. Weber led KCC through a strategic planning process that resulted in a 20-year master facilities plan for the college. Under his leadership, KCC opened a satellite center, an education and employment center, a workforce development center, an arts and sciences facility, and its Health Careers Center for Excellence. The projects were done with an eye toward sustainability.

“Dr. Jerry Weber was a catalyst for change and a champion for sustainability,” KCC President Michael Boyd said in a release. “Jerry started the conversation on our campus about sustainability, and our focus on sustainable and renewable energy training is part of the legacy he left here at KCC. After his departure, the college carried on with that priority. He and I spent some time together a few weeks ago. Jerry visited the campus and he toured the renovated Miner Memorial Library and the new Advanced Technology Education Center, which was built to deliver KCC’s renewable energy curriculum. I could tell how proud he was of ATEC, even though it occurred after his time at KCC had ended. He made a lasting impact on our campus.”



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I MAUI COLLEGE

## UHMC Culinary Arts Program’s Student Bakers Donate Their Bread To Hungry Homeless Heroes Hawai‘i

In normal times, most of the food prepared by the University of Hawai‘i Maui College Culinary Arts students is sold in the cafeteria or in The Leis Family Class Act Restaurant or at events the college caters. These times, of course, are anything but normal.

Amber Kalish is one of this summer’s Intermediate Baking students. And one of her friends, Brad Kukral, is a founder of the Maui non-profit Hungry Homeless Heroes Hawai‘i. Amber and her classmates are up to their elbows in bread. Brad’s organization always needs food for distribution. So on July 17, Brad picked up six bags of rye, all kinds of sourdough loaves, baguettes and more, just part of the bounty that this community has come together to donate to his organization.

“We’re so humbled and grateful to be able to partner with Hungry Homeless Heroes,” says UHMC Culinary Arts Program Coordinator Pastry Chef Teresa Shurilla. “Bread baked with love and passion by our students going to our neighbors who need it most. We hope we can continue the relationship with the organization as long as they need us.”

When the pandemic lockdown began, Brad and his friend Steve Calkins realized that Maui’s homeless population was being overlooked in terms of relief and aid. See a need and fill it. They decided they could cook some meals and pass them out in Lahaina, where they both live. “It really was that simple,” according to Kukral.

Four months later, they are working out of Blue Moon Café in Kīhei – which has donated its kitchen – alongside more than 70 volunteers – from executive chefs to delivery drivers – and are serving 300 to 350 meals a day in Kahului, Wailuku, Kīhei, Lahaina and Pā‘ia. They estimate they have served well over 25,000 meals. (The County of Maui estimates there are as many as 1400 homeless people here.)

“We work with many local farms, too,” explains Kukral. “They donate hundreds of pounds of produce and some of the folks we feed work on the farms.”



# University of Hawai'i Maui College

The organization gratefully accepts donations of cooked food prepared in certified kitchens, produce, and non-perishable food items. The best way to reach them is via their Facebook page – Hungry Homeless Heroes Hawaii.

Or to make a monetary donation, you can go to [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) - Hungry Homeless Heroes Hawai'i.

If you think two people can't change the world, think again.



# Lambton College

## COVID-19 Focused Projects

Lambton College's Research & Innovation Department is dedicated to helping our community and Canada in the fight against COVID-19. By providing access to our state-of-the-art research facilities, researchers, and research students, we are developing new, and optimizing existing, technologies and processes with the goal to eliminate and prevent the spread of the virus. We are also assisting organizations with emerging ways to adapt to new social and business norms. Lambton College has developed multiple, collaborative projects that address many COVID-19 challenges. These include:

### 1. Design and Fabrication of Respirator Cap and Seal

Partner: Bluewater Health (BWH)

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a critical shortage of medical supplies (facemasks, face shields, testing equipment, etc.), all of which are vital in the fight against COVID-19. The College's Lambton Manufacturing Innovation Centre (LMIC) has been working with Bluewater Health to help address this shortage by using LMIC's 3D printing capabilities to produce mask caps and filter caps for PPE half masks and elastic straps for N95 masks to ease irritation for workers. All of these items are required by BWH to protect the hospital staff and patients during the pandemic.

To reduce the required filters necessary for the half masks, a cap with a gasket seals the unused mask filter location. Caps were also developed for the filters so that when not in use, the filters are capped, kept clean from any particulates and are able to be re-used. Elastic holders were also produced to be used with regular masks to help prevent ear irritation. This project resulted in over 5000 face masks being donated to Bluewater Health and other local health and emergency services, as well as 305 mask caps, 741 filter protectors and 150 mask clips.





# Lambton College

## 2. Microalgae as an Antigen Source for a Novel Tandem Point of Care Serological Assay for SARS-CoV-2

Partner: Suncor Sarnia Refinery & Western University

In order to move past stay at home and social distancing orders, testing on a massive scale is required to properly track the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, as evidence suggests the virus spreads through asymptomatic persons, increased testing is necessary in the large-scale tracking of “carriers”.

At the current time, we do not have the ability for population-wide testing due to a limited reagent supply. Serological testing can identify people who have been infected and become immune by detecting antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 spike protein. This collaborative project between Lambton College, Western University and Suncor Sarnia Refinery proposes to produce SARS-CoV-2 spike protein using the microalgae *Phaeodactylum tricornutum*. *P. tricornutum* is an excellent expression system because it can appropriately glycosylate exogenous proteins, it is inexpensive, it has minimal biocontainment requirements, and it is amenable to scaling for the large-scale production needed to combat SARS-CoV-2. In addition to the current pandemic, this method could be rapidly adapted if the spike protein mutates and could be used for future outbreaks of other viruses.

Currently the team is growing the spike protein algae and working together optimize this and scale up.

## 3. Development of a Safe and Effective COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Using Linear Covalently Closed DNA Minivectors

Partner: Mediphage Bioceuticals Inc.

Mediphage Bioceuticals (MBI) is genetic medicine company developing therapeutics for inherited ocular diseases. Their flagship technology, ministering DNA (msDNA), is a safe and effective gene delivery vector that can be used to cure genetic diseases that have limited, or no treatment options available.

In collaboration with Lambton College, MBI aims to produce a safe and effective vaccine using MBI's linear covalently closed (LCC) DNA minivectors. An efficient and scaled-up approach to generate large scale msDNA production is required for generation of a commercially viable vaccine. Using LC's bioreactors, the fermentation protocol for msDNA-Virus Like Particle (VLP) production will be optimized and a large-scale purification protocol will be developed for separation of msDNA-VLP using tangential flow filtration (TFF)

The project is currently progressing well and the successful completion will allow Mediphage to produce the volume of msDNA-VLP necessary to conduct preclinical efficacy testing of in vitro and in vivo models. This study will have colossal impacts for the future of Canadians as a vaccine is necessary to end the COVID-19 global pandemic and allow the Canadian and global economy to begin its recovery.

<https://thesarniajournal.ca/lambton-college-researchers-in-the-hunt-for-a-covid-19-vaccine/>

# Lambton College

## 4. Hand Sanitizer Production for Rural Ontario Healthcare Facilities and Businesses

Partner: Refined Fool Brewing Co. & Imperial City Brewhouse

Hand sanitizer provides significant disinfection and destruction of COVID-19 when soap and water are not immediately available. There is a well-established market for hand sanitizer and there is a need to get supplies to hospitals, doctors' offices, pharmacies, grocery stores and other businesses to ensure the safety of those accessing their services/products.

The goal of the project is to develop a hand sanitizer product to supplement a lack of supply for the Sarnia-Lambton and surrounding regions (Bruce and Grey County). Lambton College partnered with two local breweries Refined Fool Brewing Co. (RF) and Imperial City Brewhouse (IC) to undertake the production and subsequent donation of hand sanitizer to Bluewater Health and other essential services. In addition, if supplies are not exhausted it will be sold to local businesses as they begin to reopen. The partnership will produce a 95% pure ethanol solution and LC will procure the additional compounds hydrogen peroxide and glycerol and produce hand sanitizer based on WHO guidelines (8333ml EtOH: 417ml H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>:145ml glycerol).

To date, the project has provided of 50L of hand sanitizer to local organizations to support front line workers including those at Bluewater Health, The Inn of the Good Shepherd, Bluewater Methadone Clinic, Sarnia Police Services, Sarnia Fire Rescue and the Bluewater Bridge Authority. Refined Fool has also commissioned a 100L distillation column and continues to work with Lambton College to continually produce sanitizer.





# Lambton College

## 5. Screening Derivatives of the Known Antiviral Betulinic Acid for Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Activity in Support of a New Chemotherapy

Partner: Western University

As an answer to the call for made-in-Ontario COVID-19 therapies, Lambton College and Western University will screen derivatives of natural molecules such as betulinic acid (BA) and related triterpenes for their antiviral activity against COVID-19. Due to BA's ability to block viral entry into cells, inhibit viral maturation and protect lungs, there is great interest in developing BA and derivatives into therapies for influenza and other viral infections.

The Western University team has a library of novel BA derivatives, and there is a unique opportunity to develop a new chemotherapy for the fight against COVID-19.

## 6. The Effects of COVID-19 on Nursing Students: Perspectives from a Rural Community College in Southwestern Ontario

Partner: WeRPN

The overall goal of this project is to create and mobilize personal, professional and workplace resources to support Registered Practical Nurses (RPNs) caring for older adult residents in long-term care (LTC) homes during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic using a conceptual model outlining their processes of resiliency. WeRPN (formerly the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario) identified the challenge of retention of RPNs in LTC sector and/or nursing profession altogether during COVID because of the risk of long-term psychological trauma.

WeRPN, in partnership with a multi-disciplinary team of academics, front-line clinicians and graduate students, will conduct this explanatory mixed-methods research study. While assisting the research team by leading other students and conducting project tasks, the doctoral student will develop academic competencies and general professional skills. The student will generate a quantitative online survey (Qualtrics®), followed by interviewing a purposive sample of RPNs, qualitative analysis using interpretative grounded theory procedures (NVIVO®), and triangulating all data to describe the process of how RPNs working in LTC during COVID build and sustain personal and professional resiliency to better understand RPNs agency and capacity as health care professionals. The constructs of personal, professional and institutional resilience will inform a conceptual model that is impacted by institutional policies and governmental regulations.

The expected outcomes will ensure the voice of the RPN is heard, acknowledged and informs self-care resources and recommended changes preventing the loss of RPNs (largest regulated health care professionals in LTC sector), and minimizing the potential adverse effects on LTC residents during COVID crisis and future crises.

For more information about these projects and contributions Lambton College is making in the fight against COVID-19, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3TjNpyiNzU>

# Sask Polytech

## Sask Polytech Helps Students Get Laptops

Two technology initiatives are making it easier for Saskatchewan Polytechnic students to gain access to laptop computers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first is an emergency computer laptop loan initiative open to all full- and part-time enrolled students. The stipulations are that students must be registered in a program that has moved online, and that he or she does not have access to a working computer. There are no charges for the loaners, but the students must commit to returning the computers by the due date provided through Library Services.

The second initiative allows our students to purchase Dell computers at a discount through a Laptop Purchase Program. Students are able to choose from Dell PC models which are best suited to their program. These pre-configured options ease the student shopping experience and allow students to make more informed decisions regarding their laptop purchase. Students can pick from the pre-configured systems or choose custom upgrades within those to help meet their needs, while still receiving the discount. This Laptop Purchase Program with Dell provides significant savings to our students needing affordable personal devices to ease the transition to increased online and remote learning.



## **Sask Polytech Support Services Pivot to Remote Access**

Students at Saskatchewan Polytechnic are now able to access a variety of support services online. Derek Tannis, Director of Student Engagement and Learning Services and his team have worked hard to ensure student needs are met. Sask Polytech was already moving toward having more student supports online, but the pandemic propelled the project timelines. As soon as the shifts to working and learning from home were implemented, the team prioritized one-on-one counselling, accessibility, advising and learning services supports, which meant immediately shifting teams to working with videoconferencing and phone-based supports. Supports included Student Services, Indigenous Strategy and International Education.

Student Counselling Services and Indigenous Student Centre services are all available online, with one-on-one appointments offered via Zoom or phone. Students, faculty and staff can also visit Fitness & Recreation for online circuit training classes, yoga and personal consultations.

The Learning Services Zoom Room has faculty available online to answer questions Monday through Saturday of each week.

As well, Indigenous Strategy and International Education Teams also provide daily Zoom sessions. The Library Services Team provides an online chat for questions and requests, while writing, tutoring and other learning supports have also moved online.

Internally, our teams have been able to meet more often and do more online than had been originally anticipated, virtually bringing people in from other campuses and other areas, which has led to even more innovation. Although COVID-19 was the catalyst to fast-tracking the move to online student supports, the innovation will continue to increase when the crisis is past. Just one of the added benefits is that we have developed excellent online institution-wide support services that Sask Polytech students can access, wherever they live.



# Sask Polytech

## **Creativity Enables Sask Polytech Pharmacy Tech Students to Complete Practicums**

Because there is a shortage of Pharmacy Technicians across Saskatchewan, hospitals and community pharmacies around the province were counting on the 2020 graduating class in Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Pharmacy Technician diploma program to help fill positions. In fact, most of the would-be graduates already had jobs lined up early in the year.

Then came COVID-19. COVID-19 brought in-person education to an abrupt halt in mid-March. At that point, our graduating class still had one-third of in-person classes, hands-on labs and two months of practicums to complete. When Sask Polytech campuses closed at noon on March 17<sup>th</sup>, our instructors collected their computers, books, learning resources, chairs, plants and other paraphernalia so they could set up home offices. Campuses closed on Tuesday with the expectation that courses would start online the following Monday. And they did. In less than four working days, program instructors started delivering their courses online.

Pharmacy Techs help Pharmacists prepare and deliver prescription medicines. The biggest challenge in moving to online program delivery is that Pharmacy Technician, like most Sask Polytech programs, emphasizes hands-on applied learning.

In-person labs are a critical part of the learning process. For second-year students, who were just weeks away from graduating, there was the added challenge of fitting the remaining five-week program of learning into a two-week pandemic plan.

A detailed plan was developed that met program completion requirements, while following public health directions for distancing and prevention of viral transmission during practical labs.

The plan was reviewed by stakeholders, including Sask Polytech leadership, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the provincial government, Canadian Council for Accreditation for Pharmacy Programs and Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals.

While students weren't directly involved in the planning, they were full participants in the process. Our students had to self-isolate during this time. They still had to study and continue online classes. They also agreed to take back-to-back labs and assessments, which meant writing one or two exams a day. They knew how hard we were working for them, and they trusted their faculty and leadership teams. It's very important to note the role played by hospital and community pharmacy sites, which accepted both our first and second year practicum students.

These preceptors were true professionals who took in our students despite dealing with extra workloads of their own due to the pandemic.

In the end, collaboration was the lynchpin that allowed all of this to happen. Every stakeholder helped ensure our students were able to complete their full programs, with only a few weeks delay.



## **New School of Continuing Education Launches at Sask Polytech**

Micro-credentials are among the offerings at Saskatchewan Polytechnic's new School of Continuing Education. The launch of the new School of Continuing Education has come at a critical time in Saskatchewan's history. It allows for retraining and upskilling for those whose jobs have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new school will also help businesses ensure their employees continue to have the skill sets they will need to stay competitive as their industries change due to new technologies, shifting demographics and other factors.

The school will focus on meeting the needs of Saskatchewan's business community by providing training solutions tailored towards industries in which professional training is in high demand. Courses will be available in professional development, corporate training and micro-credential programs.

The school offers more than 700 courses or topics.

# Central Community College

## CCC Goes the Extra Mile During Pandemic

Central Community College's Area Student Progress Notification System (SPNS) team stepped it up during the COVID pandemic. Under normal circumstances, the team contacts students who have been identified as academically struggling by their instructors in a three-stage process. These students receive personal email messages and phone calls that inform them of available resources and encourage them to persist and create a plan for course completion.

During the pandemic, when a fourth stage was added, the college discovered that nearly 40 percent of the students reported in stage four had not been reported as academically struggling in stage three. The early data suggests that many students reported in stage four encountered difficulty after CCC primarily moved to remote delivery of courses due to the pandemic. However, remote instruction was only part of the dilemma, according to Dr. Elizabeth Przymus, dean of student success.

"Some of our students were not able to work; some of their family members had lost work," said Przymus. "There were income issues, technology issues, feelings of isolation and uncertainty, and many other sources of stress."

Amid all the negativity, there was a silver lining according to Przymus. Due to the additional stage, more than 80 CCC staffers were recruited to help with the contacts. The staffers were from throughout the college and many had not been involved with the SPNS previously. They were trained on all services and resources and provided with a script to follow. Even though the assignment was temporary, some staffers expressed an interest in assisting with the SPNS outreach efforts in the future if needed.

Przymus. "Some of the students told the callers 'it meant so much that someone cared enough to call me.'"

"I had a number of staff who emailed me and said they appreciated being asked to help and how touched some of the students were to get a call during the midst of a crisis," said

### Valuable Venture

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke, the world watched as the number of cases reached epic proportions. New York City was the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States.



Three CCC paramedicine students – Ava Arlt (center), Desiree Lutes (right) and Cheyenne Massey (left) – traveled to New York City as part of a Federal Emergency Management Agency deployment through their employer.

The trio assisted the New York Fire Department in responding to the high numbers of 911 calls.

All three said that when the opportunity to go to New York City was made available, they had about five minutes to decide if they were going. That's because a caravan of 15 ambulances was leaving in less than 24 hours.

"I knew right away that I wanted to go, but I needed to call my mom first," Arlt said with a laugh.



# Central Community College

Cont.

What was supposed to be a 24-hour drive straight through to New York turned out to be a 36-hour venture with all the starts and stops. As the old saying goes, there was no rest for the weary as the caravan pulled into the Bronx Zoo staging area at 5 a.m. to fill out paperwork. The group checked into the New York Hilton, but less than four hours later, they had to report to the Fort Totten Park staging area for a very quick orientation.

"We received a 10-week orientation in like 20 minutes," said Massey. "I went to work right away and was on duty until 2 a.m."

Massey and her partner were initially sent to North Brooklyn for the first week covering 911 calls. They were then assigned to a task force that moved around the city relieving other task forces to give them the day off.

"My partner only stayed for two weeks and I stayed for a month, so she had already gone home by the time we got a day off," said Massey.

In addition to 911 call response, Massey assisted with transporting COVID patients, which at times was challenging because even though the destinations were just a few blocks away, the travel time was much longer than expected.

"Transporting COVID patients made us nervous, but it went OK," said Massey. "It was horrible being in the gown, the mask, the gloves and everything because it was so hot."

Arlt and Lutes were paired up and dispatched to South Bronx. The calls they responded to went beyond COVID situations.

"We responded to overdoses, stabbings, shootings and psychiatric episodes," recalled Arlt. "It was kind of scary the first two days, but then we just got used to it."

Arlt, Lutes and Massey all said that even though the work was demanding and the hours long, the experience they gained was invaluable, and they glean from their New York experience here at home.

"It was just a great learning opportunity to see all of the different medical emergencies that people had and incorporate in with what we were studying," said Lutes, who recently earned her paramedic certificate and will complete her associate degree next spring. "It gave me more confidence when I run 911 calls here," said Massey, who graduated in May from CCC. "You make all of your own decisions and it taught you how to be a leader."

"It gave me a lot of confidence coming back, especially now with internships when we have to do team leads with the fire department," said Arlt, who also earned her paramedic certificate and plans to complete the associate degree requirements.

In a city that often is portrayed as tough and unfeeling, Lutes got to see the gracious side of New York residents on her final night in the city.

"The residents came out and cheered for the first responders," Lutes recalled. "People came out on their patios, their decks and rooftops, and were banging on pans, clapping and cheering for us. That was one of the most memorable moments."

# Central Community College

## Heeding the Call

The three campuses of Central Community College served the community in a big way during the COVID pandemic by supplying headgear frames for face shields.

It began in April when the Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska proposed the idea of 3D printing plastic headgear frames. The association contacted Gene Friesen, drafting and design technology instructor at the Hastings Campus, who enlisted the help of Amy Stuart, drafting and design instructor at the Grand Island Campus. Between the two of them, some 30 headgear pieces were printed each day.

The finished frames were then delivered to various health departments and agencies to be affixed to transparent shields. The completed face shields were given to Mary Lanning Healthcare in Hastings, CHI Health St. Francis in Grand Island and medical clinics in central Nebraska.

Once the plastic injection molding program at CCC-Columbus got involved, the effort moved to a whole new level. Utilizing on-campus plastic injection molding machines, program director Ben Wilshusen was able to produce 550 pieces of headgear in the same time it took to produce one on a 3D printer.

CCC partnered locally with Jimko Machine for the project, as well as Majors Plastics of Omaha. Wilshusen produced the headgear pieces on two machines, which were donated on consignment from the manufacturers.

Once the headgear pieces were created, 100 were boxed along with shields, elastic bands and assembly instructions. CCC staffers and even a couple of student-athletes helped pack the boxes, which were then shipped to various health departments in Nebraska. More than 17,000 completed face shields were donated for use throughout Nebraska and 2,000 were given to Columbus Community Hospital.

"It's been a very humbling project," said Wilshusen. "Being able to give these pieces of protective equipment to people and seeing their sheer thankfulness was great. People were almost in tears because they didn't know where they weren't going to get the protective equipment they needed."

# Olds College

## Olds College Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic with Agility and Creativity

In March 2020, program delivery at Olds College changed rapidly in response to the global pandemic, COVID-19. At the heart of our programming at Olds College is the fundamental hands-on experience that we are known for. So with a week's notice, when our faculty team was asked to transition all classes to a remote online delivery, we faced some challenges around creating a virtual learning environment that matched the expectations of our students.

Utilizing the College's Teaching and Learning Centre of Innovation (TLCI), and our inhouse technology expertise, faculty were able to leverage Moodle and Google Meet to transition the remaining of our winter and spring 2020 terms to remote delivery. The unsung heroes of this transition were our TLCI and IT staff who increased technical training sessions for faculty and staff and supported our entire organization moving to an online environment. Our faculty were quick to rise to the challenge and their creativity and dedication was evident across all of our program areas. One of our favourite examples was of an Olds College turfgrass instructor who turned his living room into a video studio with multiple cameras and lighting to show his students the mechanics of a sprinkler system from every angle. This creative ingenuity is just one example of how our faculty team rose to the challenge of creating hands-on experiences virtually.

As Olds College prepared for fall 2020 delivery of classes, each program was put through a vigorous review to determine the most effective and safest method of delivery: remote delivery (online), on-campus, or remote with required (mandatory) hands-on labs. The majority of programs continued to be offered remotely.

Other departments on campus were also faced with new challenges in response to the pandemic. During the spring term, the College acted quickly and switched from in-person student recruitment tactics to weekly webinars, virtual Open Houses, along with a series of virtual Preview Days .

Additionally, student orientation moved to an online platform, which included sessions for academic preparation, health and wellness, respect and diversity, and COVID-19 safety guidelines. Students responded well to the online platform for new student orientation with an 87% completion rate.

To ensure the mental wellbeing of students and staff, the College altered the delivery of health and wellness services at the beginning of the pandemic by offering virtual and over-the-phone appointments, along with adding new initiatives, including virtual yoga and meditation. Additionally, Wellness Sessions, such as Art Therapy, Pet Therapy, Massage Therapy, and Counselling, moved to an online platform.

In preparation for the return of some staff and students to the campus for the fall, a significant amount of work needed to be implemented to the campus facilities to ensure the health and safety of everyone. This included, air filtration maintenance, water line flushing to maintain fresh water in buildings, and engineered solutions to work stations, classrooms, labs, public areas

and washrooms to ensure social distancing. This required the installation of plexiglass, and thousands of social distancing posters and directional decals throughout the campus.

Through the hard work of our facilities and caretaking teams the campus gradually reopened for the fall 2020 term. Throughout our response to COVID-19, Olds College staff and faculty went above and beyond to work within the everchanging guidelines, we discovered new ways to deliver exceptional learning experiences and were able to reach new potential students through our online recruitment activities.



# Star Tribune Article

by Ryan Faircloth

## Minnesota's Community Colleges Article submitted by Joe Sertich

Minnesota's community colleges are bleeding students during the COVID-19 pandemic, a reversal of what has typically occur during economic downturn's.

Fall enrolments has shrunk an average of 6% at 30 community colleges in the Minnesota State system compared with last year according to figures compiled on the 30th day of the fall semester. About a third of the community colleges recorded enrolment losses exceeding 10%.

Community colleges across the country had hoped for a boost in enrolment because of the increasing number of people who have become unemployed during the pandemic. In previous recessions many who lost their jobs pursued two year degrees to improve their skills and quickly re-enter the workforce. The pandemic has played out differently however, with community colleges suffering the most among higher education institutions. The national student clearinghouse reported last month that community college enrolment was down by 9.5% nationally, compared with roughly 1.5% decrease from public universities.

"You have people that are looking for how to pay their rent or how to put food on their tables... It could be that taking a class is just not a priority as they juggle all of their other responsibilities," said Martha Parham, senior vice president of public relations for the American Association of community colleges.

Economic uncertainty is what St Paul College Interim President Deirdre Peaslee believes is driving her schools 13% enrolment declined this fall. Current and prospective students have struggled with everything from food insecurity to accessing the technology needed for distance learning, she said.

Some Saint Paul College students have chosen to take a gap semester or reduce their credit load, Peaslee said. Nearly half the school students are aged 24 older and many have families to care for during the pandemic. "They don't have as much of a safety net from the economic perspective" she said. "While our enrolment is not where we wanted it to be, it is not something that we didn't foresee."

Hennepin Technical Colleges also experiencing a 13% enrolment drop compared with last fall, stemming from decreases in new and current students as well as 17% reduction in its post secondary enrolment option program, which let's high school students earn college credits.

About half the school students are struggling over basic needs, said Jessica Lauritsen, Hennepin Technical College vice president of student affairs. The college participated in national survey earlier this year that found 18% of the Hennepin Technical College students had lost jobs during the pandemic and about a third had their work hours cut.

At Lake Superior College in DeLuth, fall enrolment is down 15% from last year, but demand is still strong for career and technical education programs such as nursing, aviation and respiratory therapy, all of which have waiting lists. The college does not have enough classroom space to accommodate more students under social distancing requirements, said Daniel Fanning, vice president of institutional advancement and external relations

Administrators are cautiously optimistic of the schools outlook will improve. Lake Superior had seen steady enrolment growth in recent years as it ramped up recruitment of student from outside regions such as the Twin cities and Wisconsin. Those students are staying closer to home this year Fanning said, but he believes recruitment from those areas could pick back up when the pandemic subsides. Spring enrolment is also trending in the right direction.

"Some of those students who may be took off the fall are... thinking about taking at least some classes in the spring and then coming back full time in the (next) fall." Fanning said.

Just for Minnesota State community college just saw their enrolments grow this fall, according to system data. Rochester Community and Technical College saw the largest bump at about 4%. Michelle Pyfferoen, the schools vice president of academic affairs, attributes the increase to an unexpected surge in PSEO enrolment.

Minnesota State University's are generally fairing better than community colleges. The seven universities in the system have seen an average enrolment decrease of about 3.5% this fall, with St Cloud State University logging the steepest decline at 10.5%.

**Financial repercussions**

Community college leaders say they have made adjustments to offset lost tuition revenue and should be able to whether enrolment losses in the short-term.

St Paul College cut travel and event costs as well as the number of classes being offered this fall. Hennepin Technical College administrators hope to save money through employee attrition. Lake Superior college laid off six employees and parted ways with five others through early retirement incentives; most of the visions will not be refilled.







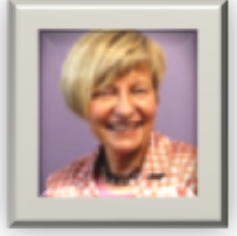


"We are trying to tighten our belts as much as we possibly can," Fanning said.

Mike Dean, executive director of the statewide community college student association LeadMN, said even short term enrolment loss should be taken seriously. It could lead to a less educated state workforce. Minnesota State colleges could also face state budget cuts in the coming years, and if their enrolment does not rebound, they will have less revenue to fall back on.

"To take enrolment declines and declines in state revenue at the same time would just have... a devastating impact," Dean said. "I don't think the reserves are going to be able to buoy them enough."

Submitted by Joe Sertich

# PIN Executive 2020

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