Dear Itasca Students,

I know you’ve been anxiously awaiting to hear what our plans are for college life and classes at Itasca for the coming fall semester, in light of the current world health crisis. I write to you today to provide an update on the plans we are currently making.

There is still a lot that we don’t know what the future will bring, but this much is certain: **Itasca will be open and ready to welcome you for the start of the fall semester.** We will make adjustments in accordance with ongoing MN Department of Health, CDC, and Minnesota State College and University System guidance as necessary to safely serve our students, while working to continue to provide the high-quality educational and learning community experiences for which Itasca is known. Please make no mistake -- the safety, security, and health of our students, faculty, and staff continues to be our top priority as we make plans for fall semester.

To that end, here are the current updates for Fall 2020:

**Classes**

Classes will be held in a mix of in-person (on campus), distance (Zoom), asynchronous online, and hybrid formats. The format for each course will be communicated through your schedule in e-services and the D2L Brightspace page for each course. The format for each course is being selected with your instructors to create a quality experiential learning environment, while maintaining proper social distancing for activities that require in-person learning.

**Housing**

On-campus housing will be open this fall, with occupancy limits set based on state guidelines to ensure appropriate social distancing. The college is exploring alternatives for students who do not get a spot in the residence halls.

The surrounding community offers a variety of off-campus options. A limited number of these options can be found at www.itascacc.edu/housing (select “Off Campus Housing”).

**Activities**

At this time, fall sports are going forward as planned. The college is following the directions of the NJCAA, MCAC, and the Minnesota State College and University System.

College clubs will be active and student activities will occur, with appropriate health and safety measures in place.
Given the different learning models for this fall, we recommend that students bring a laptop with them to campus for the fall. Computer labs will be available to those who do not have access to a device or require specific software applications for their academic program.

As you know, we can all further protect ourselves and others by:

- Washing our hands often with soap and water; covering our cough and sneeze; avoiding touching our eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Practicing self-care by eating a healthy diet and taking time to rest
- Frequently cleaning all commonly touched surfaces
- Avoiding large gatherings
- Wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain
- Staying home if you are sick, this will be part of plan for fall semester and your courses

More information will be provided throughout the coming weeks as we continue our work towards welcoming you for fall semester. As always, Itasca Community College is committed to providing an engaging, enriching, and safe college experience. We appreciate all of our students and thank you for adapting with us as we move forward!

Our team here at Itasca Community College look forward to welcoming you this fall.

Take good care,

Dr. Bart Johnson
Provost
Itasca Community College