

hunkering down is a sport...

Coronavirus And Enrollment

Written By: Jheanelle Kherr

The Coronavirus came in like a flood. It took the lives and livelihood of many individuals and caused chaos. The world was not ready for what COVID 19 brought; we lacked resources, facilities, testing, and trained personnel; and like many places, Niagara County Community College was shut down during the middle of March. One second we were learning in class, and the next, professors were in training to effectively teach online for the remainder of the semester.

It is now November and schools have reopened; the country has found better ways to handle the virus and everything seemed to have been slowly making a turn for the better. NCCC made it extremely safe to return by placing different measures to ensure staff and students feel comfortable amid the chaos. The Coronavirus finally seemed to have been leaving us until it was announced in late October that it is making a comeback in the Western New York region with Erie County having the highest cases and Niagara County not very far behind. Many SUNY (State University of New York) schools, according to previous plans, will be going back to remote learning after Thanksgiving break to prevent the potential spreading of COVID 19 in communities.

The virus not only took lives, it also took the ambition of many young individuals who were eager to return or attend college, thus heavily impacting enrollment. Many students reportedly dropped out due to the first wave of the Coronavirus and now a seemingly

second wave is threatening to take progress away, Is Niagara County Community College ready for it?

After speaking with Mr. Robert Mckeown, the assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management, I was made to understand that the expected percentage decline for the fall semester was 15% and the actual number was 11%, although this is good news, the school suffered. Students were either dropping out or taking a gap year, which could result in no return. The coronavirus has changed the perspective of many individuals. Without the struggles of a virus, college is already very time consuming, frustrating, and though rewarding, an exhausting passage people take to achieve and fulfill their goals and dreams. It is reported that students believe because of the changes in the system such as online learning, lack of teacher-student connection, heavy assignment load to make up the absence in the classroom, and the new distance learning fee, it is not worth returning. Like this reporter, some students depend heavily on discussions with a professor in person to decipher an assignment or speak about ideas and perspectives. One of my best memories in the past semester was speaking to my Spanish professor about traveling to places she has been and learning the language better, talking to her somehow made me feel excited about the next class. The lack of interaction has demotivated students thus the decline in numbers.

I was in a zoom class when I overheard a student professing a fear so grave that it made her stay in

her car, outside of the college, for the class. It was the fear of contracting the Coronavirus. She was brave to return even though she was scared or maybe circumstances would not allow her to drop out or take a gap year. Whichever reason it was, she is still attending the college. Many people are lead by their fears and refuse to return or enroll. The coronavirus is very scary, it is not a mythical creature in the storybooks, it is very real and very impactful. I shared the same fears when it was time to return, however, to my surprise NCCC is equipped with plexiglass, screeners who instruct everyone to test their temperature and explain how they are feeling and where they have been to track who went into the high zones of the virus. Everyone is required to wear a mask and will be penalized if they walked around the campus without wearing it correctly. The sticker system, as many call it, is also in place, every student and staff member is given a sticker each day to place on their person which notifies screeners that they have already been signed in, if one is caught without a sticker a screener can ask them to rescreen to ensure that, in truth, they already signed in. NCCC is serious about protecting its school body. I was very pleased with the changes and immediately felt safe, regardless of the news being reported about other Suny schools having numerous cases, I feel secure in the arms of this school.

Just when you thought the school couldn't get any safer, the mandatory pool testing came along. To determine cases on campus, a random pool testing is done, persons

are selected and emailed to take a COVID test, on the campus. If the result is positive, they are notified and asked to quarantine for 14 days before returning to campus where they would take a test again to ensure the virus has left them. A rapid test is also done at the wellness center; this is an immediate result test which is done as a last resort, in high case emergencies. These tests are done for only students and staff members, but a state testing center is set up and can be done in the parking lot which is free for the public.

Niagara County Community college is one of the many schools under SUNY and even though the school is doing its best to keep everyone safe, if and when required to take an action issued by the state, the school must comply. According to previous plans of SUNY, Schools are required to have the entire campus body do COVID testing before the Thanksgiving break. Schools will also be required to practice remote learning after the break to prevent the potential spreading of COVID 19 in communities. I was reassured that NCCC proposed to allow labs, tutoring, and the campus to remain open for students to visit which they were allowed to do so. It is said that lack of knowledge and preparation gives way to fear which in this case causes a decline in enrollment, however, the virus came and we found ways to fight it head-on. Students returning for the spring semester can have faith that NCCC has and will continue to do everything possible to only ensure the safety of its body, but ensure the students enjoy coming to campus as they once did.

November is Native American Heritage Month

Written by: Elexa Printup

The month of November is national Native American Heritage month. This month is a time to celebrate the rich cultural traditions and histories. It is important to acknowledge the contributions of indigenous people, especially as we approach Thanksgiving.

The Thanksgiving story of Pilgrims and Native Americans sharing a friendly meal will be reenacted and celebrated across the country on November 26th. Although it may seem like we are honoring them, many Native Americans actually consider it a "Day of Mourning," pointing out the story overlooks how the introduction of European settlers spelled tragedy for indigenous communities. For this reason, Indigenous peoples and their allies are calling on Americans to "decolonize" their Thanksgiving Celebrations.

Native American history is American history and Native peoples are an essential part of the historical and cultural fabric that makes up this nation. While it is a joyous time of celebration and paying respect, history continues to be relevant as do the contemporary voices of those we aim to celebrate.

As we learn about Native American Heritage Month, we will learn about the many narratives, the many truths, the many traditions, and the many practices of the First Americans, all while examining America's turbulent history.

The heritage of indigenous peoples is the moveable cultural property. There are all kinds of literary and artistic works such as music, dance, song, ceremonies, and all kinds of scientific, agricultural, and ecological knowledge. Indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, among other things, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests.

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month, we can shop indigenous and donate to indigenous causes. Kehala Smith, of the Tuscarora Nation, and her husband Jordan Smith, of the Mohawk Nation, are local Indigenous peoples who reside on the Tuscarora Nation. Kehala creates traditional beadwork and runs her own company called Kreations by Kehala. Customers can purchase

her beadwork at the Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls, NY. She makes everything from beaded earrings, to lanyards, to phone cases. Jordan Smith is a well-known singer and dancer in the Indigenous community. He has won multiple competitions and even creates his own CD's. Jordan and Kehala also hold classes for Indigenous youth on the Reservation so they are able to learn their culture and traditions. The couple has a Facebook page where they openly share their gifts of singing, dancing, and beadwork. You can find them at Kehala and Jordan Smith. Be sure to check them out.

As for helping Indigenous causes, this month, the Tuscarora Water Drive celebrates its three Year Anniversary! Ken Cosentino, of Niagara Falls NY, co-founded the Niagara Falls Water Protectors, along with Randy Greene, of the Tuscarora Nation. With the help of some truly compassionate donors, the Niagara Falls Water Protectors have provided clean drinking water to the Tuscarora Community every month since 2017. Water mains do not extend to the Tuscarora Reservation, so many of the 1,200 reservation residents depend on wells to provide water for drinking, cooking

and washing. Tuscaroras who opt not to drink well water have options. Some deal with businesses that haul water in tanker trucks to fill their water tanks, others buy bottled water, and some residents go to the Nation House, where the Nation gives well water that has been filtered and treated.

On Saturday November 21, 2020, the Niagara Falls Water Protectors will be set up at Sam's Club on Military road in Niagara Falls between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Acceptable donations are cases or jugs of water, money, or your time to volunteer. If you need any other information on this event, reach out to Charlene Roque-Washington (volunteer and organizer). Cash App and Venmo are @chawlne and contact info is 858-610-4905.

Native and Indigenous peoples are here. They are thriving. They are resisting racism on all levels from the local and institutional to the systemic. They are building solutions to the climate crisis. They are protecting land, water, and place-based knowledge and revitalizing the ways to help lead into the future. They are honoring those that came before us and carrying their teachings

Hello Students!

Congratulations! Soon you will complete the fall 2020 semester (the semester officially ends on Saturday, December 12th).

Check with your professors about final exams. There is a chance you may have a scheduling conflict with final exam schedules depending on the courses you are taking. If you do have an exam conflict, discuss these conflicts with your professors immediately.

Also, have you made sure to register for spring 2021 classes, and have you made sure you meet all the prerequisites for your courses? After meeting with your advisor, you are still not registered for classes. To complete the registration process, you will need to sign in to Banner Web and officially register for your courses.

The end of a semester is a good time to reflect in order to be more successful next semester. Did specific habits help or hinder your progress? Who among your friends and family encouraged you in your studies? Who, on the other hand, discouraged you or distracted you? Did you use your time effectively, or did you waste a lot of time? Did you get to class? Were you on time and prepared and focused? Did you seek help from your professors or from academic coaches or tutors in the Academic Center for Excellence?

After reflecting on your answers to these questions, you should develop an effective plan for the spring semester. Identify the habits that you need to keep or develop and those that you need to break. Identify the people who are supportive of your studies and seek them out next semester. Create strategies that will help you better manage your time. Develop a plan for seeking extra help in courses that you will find challenging.

Enjoy the holidays, and the break, and return in January prepared to succeed!

Best Regards Always,

~ The Student Success Committee of NCCC



ALSO!

The Spirit needs a crew!



How to Travel Safely during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Written by: Joshua Vantino

COVID-19 has changed our lives in many different ways. One of the specific ways that life has been changed is the impact on travel. Many of us made travel plans for the summer and throughout the year, but were unable to take those trips because of the pandemic. What does traveling look like, if necessary, especially with an upcoming holiday season?

Although it may seem crazy to even think about flying, airlines have assured their customers that health and safety are priorities during flight. Airlines like United, Delta and Southwest are requiring face coverings throughout the duration of the flight, and Southwest is keeping the middle seat open until further notice. For example, when boarding a flight with United, the plane is boarded from back to front to make sure passengers aren't passing each other. Upon entering the plane, flight attendants hand out sanitary wipes for travelers to wipe down their seat with. According to United's website, the airline states that they are "using state-of-the-art, hospital-grade, high-efficiency (HEPA) filters during the entire flight to circulate air and remove 99.97% of airborne particles." They are also deep cleaning the plane before every flight. If travel plans change, Southwest is allowing free reusage of the original ticket for up to a year from date of purchase according to their website. This ensures that if plans are changed within the last second, the traveler has peace of mind that they can reschedule their trip.

Aside from flying, how do we know where it is safe to travel? We unfortunately live in a world where, quite literally, no specific place is safe, but certainly pulling up Apple News' COVID-19 map and viewing each state is helpful. Travelers have to be aware that they aren't the only ones traveling, and there are

people just like them who want to go places and see their families, especially as we approach the holiday season. If travelers take a few precautions into mind, it will lower the risk of catching COVID-19. For example, wearing a mask anytime a traveler is out in public can greatly decrease chance of direct exposure, keeping them and the people around them safe. As much as we want to go out and do fun things, staying close to where a traveler is calling home for their trip is a crucial precaution that needs to be taken seriously. Instead of going to different sightseeing attractions and populated places, staying indoors with family this holiday season could quite literally save lives.

Because of the massive outbreaks in multiple states, New York State has devised a travel advisory for the entire state to make sure case numbers don't spike again as they did in March. According to the New York State COVID-19 Travel Advisory page, any traveler who was in another state for more than 24 hours must take a COVID test, and quarantine when back in New York for three days, followed by another test. The New York State Department of Health says on their website "If you are coming to New York from travel to a non-contiguous state or designated country, and if such travel was for longer than 24 hours outlined above, you are required to quarantine pursuant to the below requirements until you test out or for the full 14 days, unless you are an essential worker traveling from a non-contiguous state, as identified below."

This ensures that not only a quarantine is happening, but tests are being utilized to lower the fourteen-day quarantine policy that occurred before. This applies to every state but New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Travelers will need to keep this advisory in mind when making plans to travel, especially during the holi-

day season. The travel advisory form can be filled out on the Department of Health's website, or at the airport with the National Guard.

We never imagined COVID-19 would be this drawn out or make

our lives so much more inconvenient. This virus has a significant impact on travel, and a pending impact on the holidays for many families. If travel is necessary for the upcoming holidays, practicing different precautions, and quarantining can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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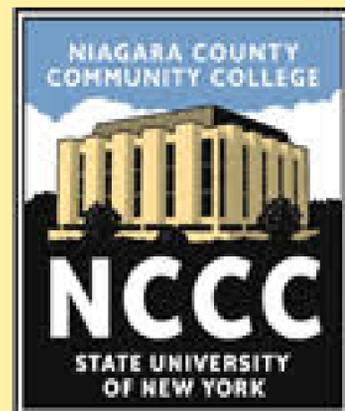
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NCCC: Take Care

Written by: Jazmyne Simmons

As we are moving deeper into the year, we are going to be approaching some of our favorite family holidays. Thanksgiving is the first big holiday we will be celebrating with covid restrictions and safety guidelines being in place so things are bound to be different this time around. As much as we want to have a wonderful holiday with friends and family we still have to ensure safety during this time.

As the holidays are approaching, many NCCC students will be traveling to be with their loved ones and that means the risk of getting sick or coming into contact with people who may be sick or high risk for getting sick. Traveling and going home can become a risk to other students on campus once traveling students return, so it's best to come up with some ways to practice our social distancing and safety even in our own home. While we all are focused on just getting a break from school and giving our mental health a rest let's talk ways to ensure our safety. Although we will all be with close friends and family that doesn't mean we are immune to

covid-19 its actually shown to be higher cases during the colder fall months. When students are traveling home, it's very important they are sure to be using a mask while on public transportation, flights, washing their hands after touching things and keeping hand sanitizer in close reach. Be very careful while spending time with elderly loved ones and young children in close contact with you as they are at very high risk for this virus. Another thing to keep in mind is while some of our students are home and visiting try to not do any unnecessary activities to keep contact with an excess amount of people to a minimum.

As we continue to become more accustomed to covid-19 conditions we are living in a new normal. We don't want things to be this way but there's no current end date so it is something we have to get used to. Making sure all of our NCCC students are safe and ensuring safety for their family is all we want. So while enjoying our holiday, let's make the most of it no matter what the circumstances maybe.

NCCC students Receive Pathway Scholars Awards

Written by: Sara Harvey

Fifty students at Niagara County Community College (NCCC) received SUNY Pathways Scholars Awards as part of the State University of New York (SUNY) initiative to assist high-performing students committed to completing their associate's degree within two years and bachelor's degree within four years. These students received a \$250 stipend in the fall semester, and will receive another \$250 stipend after completion of the spring semester at NCCC. Pathways Scholars will receive an additional \$1,000 stipend upon completion of their associate's degree and enrollment in a SUNY bachelor's degree program.

In addition to the financial assistance received, Pathways Schol-

ars receive academic counseling, career guidance, and a network of support services to keep them on track for success. At NCCC, students have access to the Office of Career and Transitional Services, which helps them to determine transfer paths for programs on the SUNY transfer path list. NCCC has established transfer articulation agreements with many colleges within SUNY, including Empire State College, SUNY College at Brockport, SUNY College at Buffalo, SUNY College at Fredonia, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Cobleskill, the University at Buffalo, and SUNY Upstate Medical University. Students can take advantage of the lowest tuition rates in the region at NCCC and then seamlessly transfer their credits to other local four year institutions.

Just Another Friday?

Written By: Alexis Workman

Well the day is approaching Black Friday, the day after thanksgiving where people shop for the 30%-75% off deals. Where we wake up early in the morning and go to stores to find the greatest deal out there. But something might get in the way this year COVID. It may be hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just three weeks away, especially if you've been at all distracted by recent events. This year, because of Covid, the last place people want to be is in stores near crowds of people. Black Friday is going to a downside for 2020, because of COVID-19 people won't be able to experience the black Friday shopping.

According to Buffalo News in the past, major retailers pulled out all the stops to drive consumer traffic to brick-and-mortar stores for the one-day shopping frenzy: Limited-quantity doorbusters, flash sales and a fever pitch of marketing hype. But with crowds discouraged for the sake of public health, retailers are switching things up.

This year, it looks like retailers' efforts to stretch the holiday season might finally match up with consumer behavior shaped by Covid concerns. With so many people stuck at home, 47% of consumers have already begun their Christmas shopping, according to market research firm One Poll, which surveyed people in September on behalf of Affirm. Black Friday has been less frenzied in stores than it had been in years past, but it was still a draw and remains one of the busiest shopping days of the year. Still, online shopping gains market share every year, and consumer behaviors changed by Covid are expected to boost it further than usual this time around. In-store traffic is expected to drop by as much as a quarter this year compared with 2019, according to a Shopper Trak study from Sensormatic Solutions, which makes in-store products for retailers, such as anti-theft devices and Covid-prevention tools.

This year, the Black Friday deals that are usually reserved for in-store shopping will appear on-

line during the month. Over the years, Black Friday has changed more into online instead of people going to the stores. The coronavirus pandemic, the hottest deals this holiday shopping season will be available online to reduce crowds and to eliminate the need to rush into a store. The sales also are starting earlier than in past years and lasting longer to spread out because of high demand. To start the season early as consumers will be faced with restrictions on how many can be in a store at a time and concerns about online orders not arriving on time.

As of now, when you walk into a mall, they don't put limits on how many come in and out the store, but we have to take the protocols. Before we go into an actual store, a store rep stands in front to see how many people are going in and out the store and sometimes stores also take temperatures before you go into a store. Then if the store maximum is too high you have to wait outside until you are called to come back in. Hopefully catching

the eye of people by doing more deals online and pushing people to do it helps the spread. We also have people that do not like the online shopping and rather go into a store or people don't have online access, so the odds of going online is very slim. According to WGRZ, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo says the state might take action to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread. During his conference call on Monday, November 2, Governor Cuomo was asked about the upcoming season approaching and if the state will be taking any extra action or enforcement on one of the busiest shopping days of the year: Black Friday. "We're considering extra guidance, nothing yet. Thanksgiving, Black Friday, the whole weekend travel, back and forth, it's all bad news when it comes to the possibility of a COVID increase," Cuomo said during the call. "You can shop on Black Friday, but people have to exercise diligence, wearing masks, social distancing. It works if you do it. People have to be careful, but there is no extra guidance at this time."

Biden Wins by Flipping Key States

Written by: Angelina Emmons

Late Saturday morning, news broadcasts that had been airing for four days culminated together in presidential race alerts. Former Vice President Joe Biden and his running mate Senator Kamala Harris have been declared the President and Vice President Elect of the United States.

The grueling process to reach this conclusion began weeks ago with the distribution of mail-in ballots. The largest issue of mail-in ballots ever occurred this year due to COVID-19. By filling out your ballot at home, one protects themselves from catching the air borne disease that continues to spike. This vote is cast through paper and the postal service or online, both of which remain just as valid as a vote casted at the normal polling station.

As many public and health officials urged the public to cast a ballot by mail, President Trump denounced the practice all together. He spread the misinformation that mail-in voting created a higher risk of voter fraud through individuals throwing ballots away or flooding the system with them. Despite the claims, mail-in balloting shows no evidence of increasing electoral fraud according to The New York Times, The Guardian, and the President's own advisors. As Trump argues the "dangers" of voter fraud through mail,

he casted his own ballot through the USPS.

The prolonged voting time which spread the course of days occurred due to the gargantuan amount of votes and mail-in ballots in the election. President Elect Biden gained the title by flipping three key states which belonged to Donald Trump during the 2016 election, these states include Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. The first two extraordinarily flipped in the last two days of counting due to the mail-in ballots. Without voters mailing in their choice and President Trump condemning the action, the current result very well might not have been the case.

Although it may appear that Biden flipping both Georgia and Pennsylvania occurred at the last minute, the way in which these states counted mail-in votes fed into this image. Some state legislators counted the votes from absentee ballots before Election Day such as California, Texas, and South Carolina. This is why states like Ohio had a large Biden start but Trump still won. Ohio counted mail-in ballots first and Election Day votes second, lending to the trend mentioned. New York, Washington, and Nevada counted ballots as they came in, so the race was kept up to date. But Pennsylvania? The state is one of five which count mail-in ballots

after Election Day ballots. This created an almost week long counting period of votes in order to claim the president. It also gave the illusion that Biden's support grew to drastic measures the later the election went. In reality, Pennsylvania counted absentee ballots last, ballots which are predisposed to be democratic leaning because republicans supporters were told not to go through with the action.

The early lead towards President Trump but ultimate win to President Elect Biden falls onto the way in which states counted votes and what the two encouraged their parties to do. Individuals voting for Trump were more likely to vote in person on Election Day because he urged them to vote that way. Biden pressed for his voters to do such in any way possible, drawing attention to mail-in voting. So, the votes which came in the day of the election reigned Republican but the votes counted after Election Day leaned Democratic.

The stream of absentee ballots caused the title counting to extend. For this reason, election day dawned onto an election week. Pennsylvania and Georgia each had over one million votes to count by the end of the first night. The overwhelming number of voters this year slowed the process of counting ballots down. Many precautions against voting fraud created strict guidelines

which the absentee ballots would be counted, this further decelerated the speed in which votes came in.

Has the increased amount of mail-in votes led to more voter fraud? As of now, there is no evidence of it. The surge of votes for Biden after mail-in ballots were counted was expected. Election experts warned of a "red mirage" occurring on election night, CNN wrote in Democracy Plain and Simple. President Trump's legal approach to his accusations of fraud had gained little to no head way. The Trump campaign has already "brought a half-dozen lawsuit" towards Pennsylvania (NPR With No Evidence of Fraud, Trump Fails to Make Headway on Legal Cases). The Supreme Court has passed up on settling the dispute twice now.

The numbers may have seemed suspicious under the rising tensions of this unique election. The trend of votes for each candidate correlates to the ballots of those on Election Day and those submitted through the mail. This trend grew from President Trump's own words and urgings against absentee voting, lending to most of his supporters voting in person. President Elect Biden accomplished the crucial feat of flipping states Trump gained in the 2016 election, and this was accomplished by a high vote count and access to absentee ballots.

Editorial: Divisive Election Displays Divided Nation

Written by: Jacob Scouten

At the time of this writing, after countless ups and downs, false starts and speculations and incorrect claims, even some very unexpected flips and close shaves, the result of several days of vote counting, it finally appears as if the US election is safe to call: Joe Biden, with a record number of votes to his name, has won, and Donald Trump's path to an electoral victory has become virtually nonexistent. The 'blue wall' that Trump had vitally flipped in 2016 was rebuilt, and even consistently red states like Georgia turned blue on account of a record number of newly registered voters. Though there are still some matters being disputed in this election as of writing this, it is, charitably, implausible that any of them, even combined, will prove either substantial in evidence or outstanding enough in effect to realistically alter the result from what has been called. Also in terms of popular vote, there have been more votes in

this election than any before it, with the winner receiving more in number than any candidate in history, to an opponent who also received a massive amount. This speaks something extremely clearly: more Americans than ever before care deeply about the results of this election, and came out in record numbers to play a small part in affecting it. It's a good thing that people are motivated, but it also speaks to the immense tension that has defined the buildup to this November.

Many of the president elect's supporters are sighing in relief and looking forward to a 'return to normalcy' after the run of easily America's most divisive head of state, but in order for things to truly achieve any sort of calm, there are things which Americans must not forget from this election cycle, yet which many also must unlearn. Months of conspiratorial whispers, baseless claims of voter fraud and rigging the system, of trumpeting for the population to fundamentally

distrust absentee voting in all its forms in the middle of a pandemic, have led to a very vocal percentage of the population in a state where they disbelieve in the legitimacy of the results. Election workers in swing states have outright had their lives threatened for simply doing their job and taking the time to count ballots, not to mention many situations like kidnapping plots in Michigan and other terroristic efforts publicized in the weeks leading up to this.

It is okay to be happy, unhappy, or ambivalent about this election, and of course, the government and its processes should not be considered 'above' criticism, but there is a difference between scrutinizingly calling for change versus refusing reality and inciting violent retribution, and even those breathing a sigh of relief that the election is basically over must not put it permanently out of their minds. These sentiments will not disappear overnight; it's likely that their scars

will be remembered by the country for years to come. No matter what the result of this election had turned out to be, the first step towards healing would still be something that needs to be taken going forward. Regardless of whether one supports him or not, the president elect put it extremely aptly in his first speech while holding the title, after the election was called on the seventh of November: "Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end here and now."

The ideas which led towards this bitter, divided, consistently exhausting point must be learned from, not overlooked, so that progress towards a better, more thriving, more united nation for every citizen that -- even if many disagree on how to achieve it, or feel as if they are divided beyond hope by matters such as political party, or are hopeless in their ability to do anything to remedy it -- the average person in this country can be assumed in good faith to wish to see.

Registration Questions Answered!

I HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED FOR WINTER OR SPRING 2021 CLASSES. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Registration for current students is ongoing. Don't delay! Schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor today. Register NOW before new students to get the best course availability. For more information, go to www.niagaracc.suny.edu/registration-records/csreg/.

WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO REQUEST AN S/U/W GRADE OR WITHDRAW FROM THE COLLEGE FOR THE FALL SEMESTER?

Monday, November 30, is the last day to withdraw from a class (W grade) or request an S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory) grade. November 30 is also the last day to withdraw from the College with X grades (applies to all full-term courses). Mod courses differ in deadlines – refer to website “Important Dates” page for more information.

All forms are located on the Registration & Records Office Forms page (On the NCCC homepage click Academics, Registration & Records, Forms).

- To drop a course and receive a W (withdrawal grade) as a final grade, complete the electronic Drop or Withdraw from a Course form.
- To elect to receive a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory final grade in a course, students must submit the electronic S/U grade request form. Students must initiate the electronic S/U grade request and complete the electronic form, which will require approvals from the course instructor and the student's advisor.
- To withdraw online from the college and receive a “X” grades for ALL of your current courses, complete the electronic Withdrawal From College form available on the Registration & Records webpage under Forms. (If you completed any modular courses, you will receive the grade earned and “W” grades will be applied to all other college coursework.)

I AM PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN DECEMBER. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please submit a Graduation Application. The deadline to file for December graduation is December 11. Apply through Banner Web by clicking on “Student & Financial Aid,” then “Student Records,” then “Graduation Application – Submit.” Verify the information you entered is correct and click “Submit Request.” If you plan to earn more than one degree and/or certificate in the Fall semester, please submit a graduation application for both.

A Message from President Murabito

With the constant changing of guidance and direction associated with COVID-19, NCCC wants to provide details on what to expect for the remainder of the fall semester. Based on the directive from SUNY and in accordance with NYS recent guidance the following details pertain to our campuses plan:

Pool testing (Pre-Thanksgiving):

On 11/16/2020 – 11/19/2020, from 7am to 6pm NCCC will be conducting testing on 100% of students, staff and faculty that have any onsite presence. For the Sanborn campus this will be performed in the Dolce Volvo Art Gallery located adjacent to the Learning Commons.

On 11/20/2020, 11/23/2020, 11/24/2020 and 11/25/2020 from 10:00am to 3:00pm, we will conduct testing for those faculty, staff and students, we missed the previous week. This testing will only occur on the Sanborn campus in the Art Gallery.

On 11/16/2020, from 8am to 6pm, NCCC will be conducting testing at the NFCI campus. This testing will be conducted in the Culinary Theater located on the 1st floor of the campus This testing is mandatory and in direct compliance with SUNY directives and our approved fall testing plan. Failure to comply will result in access to the campus being denied.

Pool testing (Post-Thanksgiving):

The week of 11/30/2020 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10am-3pm we will be conducting testing on 100% of students, staff and faculty that have any onsite presence. The Sanborn campus will be performed in the Dolce Volvo Art Gallery located adjacent to the Learning Commons.

On 12/2/2020, from 8am to 4pm, testing will be conducted at the NFCI campus. This testing will be in the Culinary Theater located on the 1st floor of the campus. This testing is mandatory and in direct compliance with SUNY directives and our approved fall testing plan. Failure to comply will result in access to the campus being denied.

Schedule and Hours of work:

All employees will continue to work their current schedule, as the campus remains open for normal business operations. The campus will continue to update employees on any work location changes. In the event employees are working remotely due to a directive by SUNY or Governor Cuomo we ask that you have a laptop if needed to perform your job functions and ensure it is functioning properly. If service is needed, please make sure you bring to OIT to correct any technical issues.

Instructional Schedule:

The campus will continue to have onsite instruction pre and post-Thanksgiving. Some courses will move to fully remote learning, many labs, technology specific dependent courses and high contact courses will continue to be conducted in face to face settings on campus.

For a full list of courses and instructional methods with a face to face or hybrid component, use the following link as a reference. Students will be contacted by their program instructors to verify instructional modality for the end of fall period. <https://www.niagaracc.suny.edu/coronavirus/students/>

Should there be any questions of concerns please reach out to Wayne Lynch, VP of Administration (wlynch@niagaracc.suny.edu) or Catherine Brown, AVP of Human Resources (cbrown@niagaracc.suny.edu). For student specific questions concerning testing, please contact Julia Pittman, VP of Student Services (JPitman@niagaracc.suny.edu). For academic instructional information contact Lydia Ulatowski, VP of Academic Affairs (Lulatowski@niagaracc.suny.edu).

NCCC Public Relations Department Wins SUNY Award for Advertising

Written by: Barb DeSomone

The Niagara County Community College (NCCC) Office of Public Relations and Event Management received a Judge's Citation award in the Excellence in Advertising Category for its 2019-2020 billboard campaign. The award was presented at the virtual SUNY CUAD (State University of New York Council for University Advancement) award ceremony held last month. NCCC Graphic designer Marlee McCabe was responsible for the photographs and design and several of the PR staff contributed key words to use on the billboards.

This is the second consecutive year the NCCC Public Relations Department has been recognized for its graphic design and photography by this organization.

