

From: EMCC President
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2020 11:35 AM
To: all_emcc; all_students
Subject: [All_emcc] Coronavirus Update April 17, 2020

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

In light of Governor Reeves' announcement earlier this week that Mississippi K-12 institutions will remain closed for the duration of their academic year, East Mississippi Community College has decided to continue providing quality instruction via synchronous and asynchronous methods for the rest of the semester. We are awaiting guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Mississippi Department of Health as to when we might be permitted to bring small groups of students in

Career-Technical, Manufacturing, Technology and Engineering and Allied-Health programs back to campus to complete the skills component of their coursework. Additionally, we are awaiting similar guidance in order to resume all non-credit workforce classes. We do not yet know when we will receive the "all-clear" from these federal and state health officials to allow for a return to limited face-to-face instruction. We will continue to communicate with faculty, staff, and students as this situation continues to evolve. In the meantime, below are some important updates and reminders.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS & EVENTS

All campus locations will remain closed to the general public until further notice. All offices are operating virtually. Please call the campus switchboard for the Golden Triangle Campus at 662.243.1900 or 662.476.5000 for the Scooba Campus to be connected with the appropriate office. Based on continued guidance from state and local health departments, EMCC has canceled all campus events through the end of May.

HOUSING & MEAL REIMBURSEMENTS

Several students and families have inquired about the possibility of a partial refund for housing and/or meal plans. EMCC, like other institutions across the state, were directed by the Mississippi Community College Board, to await further guidance from the Department of Education and the Attorney General regarding refunds. That guidance was received earlier this week. As a result, we will be issuing prorated refunds to all students who paid for their housing and meal plans out of pocket. Our Business Office is working diligently to calculate these reimbursements and post them to student accounts. Please be patient with us as we work through this process.

GRADUATION

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is in the best interest of all EMCC students, faculty, staff and families to postpone the 2020 graduation until a later time. Administrators are involved in ongoing discussions to determine how best to recognize and honor our graduates. We understand the tremendous strain caused by a delay of graduation; however, safety of the EMCC family is of the utmost importance to us. Please stay safe and we will announce final plans as soon as possible.

MAYMESTER & SUMMER TERMS

In response to the continued uncertainty around the COVID-19 health crisis, EMCC has decided to switch all summer, including MAYMESTER face-to-face courses to synchronous online courses. EMCC will offer a Maymester

term, full summer term and two summer intensive terms online in this synchronous format, which will include a virtual meeting with the class instructor on a designated day and time, as well as assignments outside of the virtual class meetings. Additionally, EMCC will offer traditional Maymester and Summer online courses, which do not require a virtual meeting between the class instructor and students. Maymester (campus) begins May 8 and ends May 29 while traditional online Maymester begins May 11 and ends May 29. Summer Intensive Campus Term 1 begins June 1 and ends June 25. Summer Intensive Term II begins June 29 and ends July 23. Summer online term runs from June 1 to July 29. [Here](#) is a list of summer classes.

JOURNEYEAST ORIENTATION

We have amended our JourneyEAST new student orientation program to be a virtual session that students can watch online. If health conditions permit, we will also offer optional in-person sessions on Saturday, August 8 and Saturday, August 15 to provide interested students with an opportunity to experience a more robust JourneyEAST session.

We encourage our faculty, staff, students, and members of our community to continuously monitor our website, <http://www.eastms.edu/coronavirus/index.html>, social media, college emails, canvas, and text message alerts for updates and information.

Stay healthy!

Sincerely,
Scott

Scott Alsobrooks, Ph.D.
President
East Mississippi Community College