

Weekly message from President Perkins – April 7, 2020

To the New England College Students,

We are in yet another week of virtual learning and work. At this point there is no clear indication that the virus is subsiding, although some experts are saying this week and next will be the peak. New Hampshire's numbers continue to rise, with 687 confirmed cases as of Monday, April 6. So far, no NEC community members (faculty, staff, students) have had a positive diagnosis of the COVID-19 virus, which is good news. We hope it will stay that way.

I hear from our faculty that the virtual/online classes are progressing well, and that class attendance is very high. It is unfortunate that we must continue in the virtual mode until the end of the semester and I am sure you miss the regular interaction with your fellow students and faculty members. For residential undergraduate students, I know you miss the on-campus recreational events, cultural programs, and athletic competitions. That said, I am proud of your positive spirit and dedication to your studies. Such determination and resilience will serve you well in your future endeavors.

For our graduate and online students, we know your lives have been disrupted by the various "shelter in place" orders around the country. We are glad that we have expertise in online education so that there is no interruption of teaching, whether your program is fully online, hybrid, or low residency. Thank you for your patience and hard work as we adapt to a new mode of education.

Despite all the challenges and difficulties we're facing, the spring weather is reminding us of the warm days to come, of a brighter future. The flowers are beginning to bloom, the trees are budding, the birds are singing, and everywhere new life is in the air. I find encouragement in this rebirth of nature and hope you feel the same.

In this spirit of rejuvenation and in recognition of your extraordinary work, I am happy to announce that this **Friday, April 10, will be NEC Rejuvenation Day! All classes are cancelled, and college community members are asked to take the day to catch their breath and enjoy what I hope is lovely spring weather for the day.**

This strange and troubling period will pass, and things will go back to something close to normal. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but I look forward to a time when we can all get together as a community and celebrate the end of this pandemic, a time when "sheltering in place" and "social distancing" are no longer part of our daily vocabulary.

As always, thank you for your hard work, dedication, and good cheer. Looking ahead, we will continue to update the community on a weekly basis. I welcome and appreciate your feedback.

Best regards,

Michele Perkins, EdD
President