MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – January 26, 2022

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

The beginning of the Spring semester is off to a great start, thanks to everyone’s ability to adapt to the evolving circumstances. We are continuing to track COVID trends in our county and the data and information show that the conditions have worsened over the past two weeks. Since my last message the Positivity Rate has significantly increased from 20.3% to 32.6% as reported today. In addition, the number of students and employees in quarantine has also increased significantly. In fact, it is double the number of individuals in quarantine at PC as compared to last semester’s high. The Omicron variant also continues to impact our community. While we are optimistic that this surge will peak soon, it will be a while before we experience relief.

Due to the aforementioned conditions, I am extending the length of online only instruction for another two weeks, at which time we will once again make a determination for a future course by evaluating the available data.

As a reminder, we will continue to minimize risk by holding all on-campus lecture classes in an online format until February 14th. Classes containing labs, such as STEM courses, as well as activity classes that require in-person participation, such as athletics, CTE programs, performing arts, and clinical rotations, may continue on-campus. At the discretion of the faculty, those sections may also transition temporarily to a virtual modality. The full range of student support services is available online, as well as in limited face-to-face mode.

I encourage everyone, once again, to consider minimizing your presence on campus as much as possible. Please continue to take all essential steps to keep yourself and your community safe. It is my sincere hope that we don’t have to extend the online/remote status again. I will only make that decision if the conditions oblige me to do so in order to minimize the risk to students and staff.

I sincerely thank all students, staff and faculty, for doing their very best to navigate these conditions and remain focused on supporting each other. I, along with the entire management team, are here to support you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claudia Habib,
Porterville College President