

## Putting Students Needs First

As we deal with the “new realities” we face everyday in higher education, one thing remains clear. The path to academic success starts with putting the needs of our students first.

Many of our students are facing hardship in this very unsure time. They are forced to deal with issues like the loss of income or food insecurity every day.

For those students, it can be hard to come up with the tools they need to remain successful in this new “online” learning environment.

Porterville College has stepped up to meet the needs of our students in several key areas: **Student Technology, Student Services/Counseling, Academic Support, and Lifestyle Student Support.**

A team was created early on to address the technology needs of students. That team has been working to get technology in the hands of students, rain or shine. They have been able to provide **over 40 laptops to students** who needed them over the past few weeks.

We have also been able to order **100 mobile hot-spots** for students without internet access. We are lending this technology to students through the system already in place at the Library.

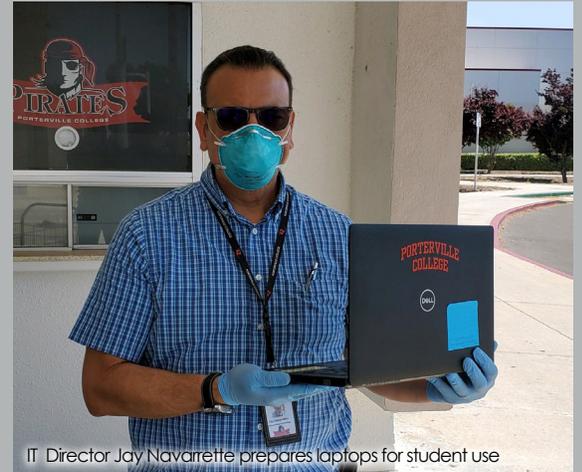
Due to the level of student requests for wifi access in our parking lot, we are we have made this project a priority. We have ordered over **100 more laptops** to support future needs through summer and fall.

Online tools are being used, as well as good old fashioned phone calling, to reach out to students to check-in on them and to make sure they “stay the course” when it comes to their educational goals. We are providing online counseling appointments through Cranium Cafe and we held “virtual support events” such as RegFest and PCconnection to aid students in registration. We held nearly **800 appointments** with students through these events alone.

The total number of Student Support appointments held this semester totals 7,888.

We are ensuring that students have the academic support they need to get through this transition by providing FREE peer and faculty counseling online, via canvas.

Students with food insecurities are being provided food through our Pirate Pantry. Once a week, we hold a drive through food pickup where students can get staple food and hygiene items by simply showing their ID.



IT Director Jay Navarrete prepares laptops for student use



Ed Advisor Jacqueline Escareno contacting students via phone.



Students visit the Pirate Pantry drive-through service.

## Important Upcoming Dates

| Dates            | Event                                                 | Time/Virtual Location                                                                                |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CURRENT</b>   | <b>OPEN VIRTUAL REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER/FALL 2020</b> | <b>Register Online at <a href="http://www.PortervilleCollege.edu">www.PortervilleCollege.edu</a></b> |
| May 9 to May 15  | FINAL EXAMS for Spring Semester 2020                  | Various - Contact your Instructor for more Information                                               |
| May 15           | END OF SPRING SEMESTER 2020                           |                                                                                                      |
| May 25           | MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY                                  |                                                                                                      |
| June 8 - July 16 | Summer Semester 2020                                  |                                                                                                      |



This update is published by the Porterville College Marketing and Communications Department. You may contact us at [marketing@portervillecollege.edu](mailto:marketing@portervillecollege.edu) or at 559.791.2209

## The Road to Pirate Maps Continues

“We were making good progress advancing equity conversations [through the Guided Pathways Framework] but the COVID-19 crisis highlighted the urgency to do more in closing educational and social gaps in education.”

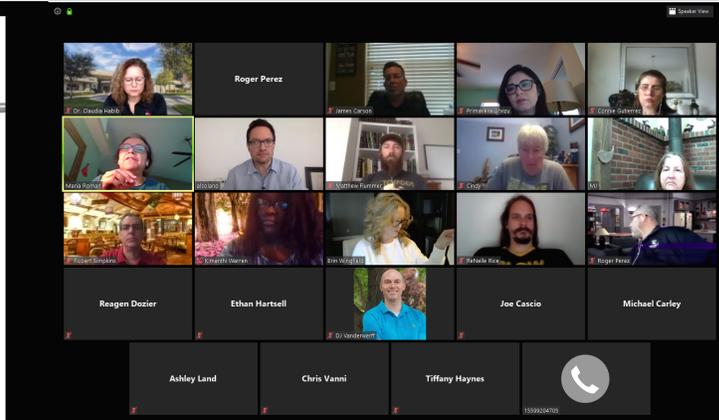
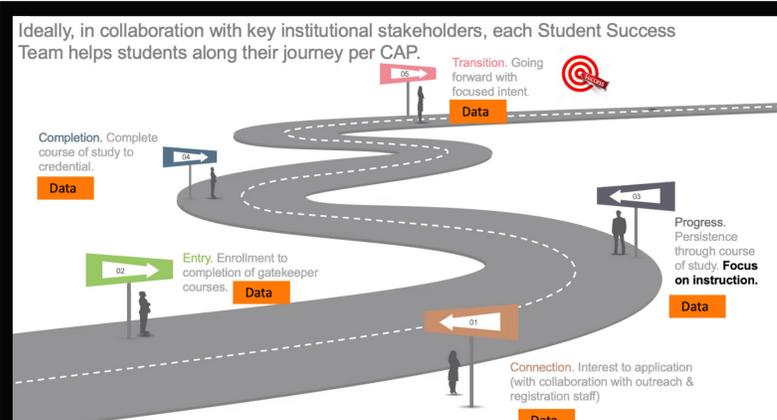
The above statement by Dr. Habib is very indicative of how the entire Pathways to Success and Equity committee feels about Pirate Mapping at PC. It is this sentiment that makes us very excited to announce the “relaunch” of our Pirate Maps completion effort in this virtual environment.

In order to stay on track with our implementation efforts thus far, we have moved many of our tasks to a virtual format.

We recently held a virtual kick-off meeting with our Success in Equity coach Dr. Al Solano and discussed best practices with regards to creating “online student success teams” for our efforts going forward.

We had a wonderful discussion about the realities of completing such an effort online and we left the meeting feeling energized and ready to serve our students in some new and exciting ways.

We are proud to move forward into the summer and fall with the next steps in these game changing pathways. Look for completion teams to start implementation of our program clusters with a pilot program in the fall and full implementation soon.



Dr. Al Solano leads the Porterville College Guided Pathways team in a Zoom Discussion about providing Equity amidst COVID-19.

## Thank You to the PC Faculty!

The faculty at Porterville College have been true rock stars. Suddenly converting from face-to-face to online instruction was a daunting task. However, our faculty found a way to continue providing quality instruction for our students despite the struggles. Those experienced with distance education spent several hours acting as trainers and mentors for new converters to assist our instructional designer as we sought to adjust quickly. And most faculty took advantage of multiple workshops to familiarize them with tech tools and engagement techniques.

Through all the adversity it's been great to see the innovation and engagement. We've had brains dissected in garages and bacteria cultured in home refrigerators; lab equipment sent home to students and laptops assigned to those without sufficient access. Faculty are utilizing multiple technologies daily in efforts to reach every possible student no matter their tech limitations while our student tutors are providing student and faculty support on Zoom, Google Voice, and other front-line tools.

These have surely been difficult times. But Porterville College faculty and staff have mobilized, adapted, and overcome through collaboration and tenacity. These aren't great times... but this is a great place to be!



## CARES Act Funding Helps PC Students

We are excited to report that, along with other support services being offered by PC, students struggling due to the COVID-19 crisis are being helped by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Congress has authorized \$14 billion in funding for U.S. colleges and universities through the CARES Act.

Eligible Students will receive emergency funds, through Bank Mobile, intended to help students pay for food, necessities such as housing, child care, and transportation among other things.

We are grateful that our students have funding such as this to turn to during this crisis. If you know someone you think might qualify for CARES Act funding, have them contact the PC Financial Aid Office for more information.



Pirate Pantry

## Helping Students Eat

As we continue to assist our students with their Basic Needs, Cal Fresh has become a resource to provide funding to students so they can purchase food for themselves and/or families.

Our campus Cal Fresh certified assistant, Rebekah Cruz, has stepped up to host “Virtual Cal Fresh” meetings to assist students with applying to receive their Cal Fresh benefits.

Thank you to Rebekah and the entire Financial Aid team for their help in supporting students with food insecurities during this difficult time.



## Commencement News

Since the implementation of the “stay-at-home” orders and the transition to a new “virtual” world, many students have asked us what we will do about the commencement ceremony for the class of 2020.

Like many of you, we have been looking forward to this event. We are disappointed and heartbroken over the current circumstances, as they do not allow us to hold a “traditional” commencement ceremony at this time.

With so much uncertainty surrounding the mandated social distancing guidelines established by Governor Newsom and when the safety protocols will be lifted, it is not feasible to plan and announce a commencement ceremony for any time soon. However, we feel strongly that even with commencement at a later date, we wanted to mark this moment, this Spring Semester.

After receiving great feedback from graduates in a survey, we decided to move forward with a plan to provide a keepsake for each graduate to commemorate this occasion. We are planning to deliver this

keepsake in a safe yet memorable way which we will communicate in the next couple of weeks.

Our wish was to have this ready on May 15th, but the closure of many businesses and lengthened delivery times has forced us to plan for the first week of June, instead.

Given the uncertainty of the circumstances, we cannot commit to a Fall event. However, we are committed to providing a commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020 in May of 2021. By waiting until then, we expect that families will also be able to attend.

Our plan is for this to be a unique ceremony, separate from the Class of 2021. We will provide details on this event at the end of Fall 2020.

Wishing you all a great rest of the semester and a proud **CONGRATULATIONS to the Porterville College’s Class of 2020!**



File Photo: Porterville College Commencement Ceremony

## Starting new traditions in spite of COVID-19



Before the COVID-19 crisis, we were working on a new tradition for Porterville College. The Administration team was working on a new Staff and Faculty Recognition ceremony to honor those team members that were retiring or that had achieved time-based service milestones.



Now that we are following social distancing and “Stay at Home” guidelines, it is impossible to hold that ceremony before the end of this fiscal year.



In order to be able to honor those retirements and service award achievements before the end of the year, we decided to hold a “virtual” version of this ceremony through a Zoom meeting format.

The ceremony, consisting of live interaction between “guests” and video segments honoring the retirees and service award recipients was held on April 29th during our regular “Staff Forum” time slot. We hope that this fun tradition stays with us in a different format for years to come!

-  @PCollegePirates
-  @PortervilleCollege
-  PortervilleCollege

### Join us on Social Media!

Have you liked or followed our social media pages yet? We want to see how you spend your time on campus, so be sure to like and follow us! Use the hashtag **#PCLife** to show us how you spend your time on campus!



File Photo: PC Campus

**“Even though we miss our students and our beautiful campus, we know that these changes are necessary for your health and safety.”**

**Stay Home. Stay Healthy. Stay Safe.**

**#WeGotThisPirates #PCStudentSuccess**



File Photo: PC Campus

**WE MISS YOU PIRATES!**