

MEMORANDUM

TO: SACSCOC Membership

FROM: Belle S. Wheelan, President

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Update

I truly hope that each and every one of you is staying healthy and safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone at SACSCOC is either working from home or practicing social distancing in the office. We have transferred all of the phones to either a home or cell phone so you can still reach us via phone or email.

Since we don't know how long this Coronavirus pandemic will last, we've rescheduled several of our activities for the rest of the spring through the summer and I wanted to let you know about them.

While the Executive Council met a week before the institutional shut-downs began, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees and Committees on Compliance and Reports will still meet this summer but it might be later than originally planned in June. We will keep you posted on specifics as these plans are finalized.

The Off-Site Committees are still scheduled for April but we may have to move them to the week of May 24th. If we do have to move them, the New Trustee Training will be held May 27th and 28th. Those who will not be able to join in person will be accommodated through technology.

We had begun On-Site Committee visits this spring but still had 28 left so we have extended their accreditation cycle for 12 months and will reschedule their visits over the summer and fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021.

We have several Special Committee visits that we are attempting to hold as scheduled or reschedule them before the summer meeting of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. Additionally, the Small College Initiative scheduled in April has been rescheduled to October 5th. We have not made a decision to move the Summer

Institute scheduled in July as we are still hoping we'll be able to honor that date; however, we are monitoring the situation daily and will let you know if we have to reschedule it as well.

We have implemented the processes outlined by the U.S. Department of Education and granted waivers to 75 institutions that had not previously been approved to offer distance learning. Practically all of our member institutions have notified us that they have moved their instruction on-line and made changes to their academic calendar. We are working to publish this information in accordance with the Department's requirement.

As a former college president, I know the struggles, heartaches and disappointments with which you are dealing. If there is anything we at SACSCOC can do to be of assistance, I hope you will let us know. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy. This too shall pass away.