



BACK-TO-CAMPUS EMAIL
September 14, 2016

From the desk of UCC President Debra Thatcher

Dear Umpqua Community College Staff,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the start of Fall Term. I'm looking forward to continuing my service as the president of Umpqua Community College as we begin what's shaping up to be a great year.

As the first day of classes draws closer, I'd like to touch on a few key events happening on campus.

NEW NURSING, HEALTH AND SCIENCE CENTER NOW OPEN

A lively crowd of donors, staff and community members recently caught a first glimpse at UCC's new Bonnie J. Ford Nursing, Health and Science Center, which opened last week. The 35,000 square foot center houses classrooms, offices, labs and meeting spaces to support UCC science, nursing, dental and health programs. The event was a great success and the ribbon cutting was a wonderful tribute to all the hard work that went into getting this project finished ahead of time and under budget. We are thrilled to have students start their college careers in this amazing learning establishment.

MEMORIAL EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 30TH

We are hosting an event for families and people affected by the events of October 1, 2015 on September 30 in the morning. We will have flowers at the flagpole commemorating the event, bagpipe music will be played in the center of campus, and everyone will be invited to observe a moment of silence. The families will spend time with the Board of Trustees in Jacoby and will tour the new art installation honoring survivors and the Umpqua Nine at the Whipple Fine Arts Center. The Remembrance Committee is working on a Facebook campaign to pursue "Acts of Kindness" in remembrance of the event. No other ceremonies or events are planned on campus. UCC will be closed on October 1st. If you have questions or concerns, please email Anne Marie Levis, our public information officer at public.information@umpqua.edu.

CHANGE IN CAMPUS-WIDE ALERT SYSTEM

I would like to announce that Umpqua Community College is changing its emergency messaging system from Blackboard Connect alert system to Alert Sense. We have decided to make this switch as Lane Community College and Douglas County Emergency Communications use Alert Sense, and we are working to build long-lasting partnerships with both organizations. Although Blackboard Connect is a great product, Alert Sense gives us the chance to seamlessly partner with our sister college and the Emergency Communication Office.

This new emergency messaging system gives us access to local cell towers as well as the ability to send messages to all connected devices within a defined geographic footprint. We are currently in the process of gaining permission in order to send these emergency responses and are excited to make a transition that will allow for more mutual training between organizations and improved on-campus safety.

ASSOCIATION RETREATS

I would like to remind all staff that department retreats will take place at the end of this week. This is a great way to get back into the swing of things and spend time with your coworkers. Please make sure to check in with your association leaders for more information on your association's retreat.

IN-SERVICE DAYS

UCC has five in-service days taking place September 19-23. These will be great days of training as we prepare to welcome students back to campus on September 26. I will look forward to seeing all of you there!

PARKING PERMITS

Facilities is ready to hand out the new orange parking permits for the 2016/17 school year. Employees should return their purple permit and pick up an orange one in the next two weeks. Warehouse Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to noon and 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

Warm regards,

Dr. Debra Thatcher
President, UCC