



WELCOME TO FALL TERM
September 26, 2016

From the desk of UCC President Debra Thatcher

Dear Umpqua Community College Faculty and Staff,

What a great first day of classes! It was thrilling to be here today with all of you to welcome the new and returning students to a wonderful Fall Term. There is a lot of excitement in the air and our students are looking to us to help them to attain their educational goals. What a joyful time to be a part of education.

I'd like to touch on a few key events happening on campus this week. I'd also like to take a moment to comment on the importance of taking care of yourself as well as our students.

SEPTEMBER 30TH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

On Friday, we will have a moment of silence to remember the events of October 1st. We have invited the families of those affected by injury or death to campus for a solemn gathering in Jacoby lobby. Most families will arrive on campus at 10:00. At the center of campus on the compass, we will have bagpipers in attendance to play several songs before the moment of silence. We plan on having the moment of silence at 10:38.. Faculty can participate in the moment of silence or continue on with your class work. We will leave that decision up to you. There will be rocks at the center of campus with inspirational words on them for everyone to take as a memory of the day.

MEMORIES, TRIGGERS AND MEDIA

While back-to-school is a happy time, this week may feel both stressful and difficult. I understand that this term may be full of triggers and memories that will come when you least expect them. Please take care of yourself and when you need help, please ask for assistance. We are here to support you during this stressful time. There is counseling on campus available to you. There will be a lot of media stories that will come out of this week. Many media have already been to campus but others will be here on Friday. If someone asks you a question, you do not have to answer. If you see media on campus or are contacted by anyone asking for an interview, there is help available. If you want assistance, please call Anne Marie Levis at 541.915.4659. She is around and available to talk to any media personnel who are on campus.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS CAMPAIGN #UmpquaCares

We will be launching a *Random Acts of Kindness* campaign on social media this Wednesday which will be tagged with the hashtag #UmpquaCares. This campaign is modeled after the Sandy Hook campaign that worked to intentionally spread joy and love in memory of those who died by doing random (and sometimes anonymous) acts of kindness. We will have an explanatory page and posts to our social media (Twitter and Facebook) throughout the month of October. We will be promoting this through media stories and marketing efforts. Please join in by doing a random act, documenting it on social media (your page or ours) and putting the tag at the end of #UmpquaCares. We will documents all the wonderful acts and report back to you at the end. Spread the word!

THANK YOU FOR SUCH A SUCCESSFUL IN-SERVICE AND DEPARTMENT RETREATS

I was so thrilled to attend the campus retreats and in-service. It was a joy to stand up in Jacoby and address our staff and faculty. What a successful and engaging group of events! Thank you all for making the time for this focused professional development and to jumpstart a promising year.

Warm regards,

Dr. Debra Thatcher
President, UCC