Hello RRCC Students,

It has almost been two years to the date (March 16th, 2020) when we all walked out the doors of this wonderful institution not knowing what was going to happen next.  Looking back, we had never thought about being prepared for a pandemic but we found ourselves trying to make sense of the unknown.  Together, we closed the doors and quickly went totally remote, something that was unprecedented in the history of our college.  Never before had I witnessed such a swift and collective jump into action.

Needless to say, we learned a lot as a community, and as a result, RRCC will never be the same.  Now, we are ready to take the next step.

**As of Monday, March 14 the wearing of masks in all college buildings will be optional and not required.** We encourage faculty, staff and students who feel more comfortable wearing masks while on campus to continue to do so.  If you are asked by a faculty member, colleague, or peer to wear a mask in their presence, please be respectful of their request.

**All individuals should continue to carry a mask with them as there are a few exceptions.**  These include:

* The request of an in-classroom faculty/instructor for students to continue to wear masks in class.
* The request of staff/faculty/instructors in close quarters and individual offices when meeting with others in their office.

Masks will continue to be made available at both the Lakewood and Arvada campuses.

We strongly encourage students, faculty and staff to get fully vaccinated.  To make that more convenient, Jefferson County Public Health will provide COVID vaccinations and boosters as well as flu shots on Wednesdays from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm beginning Wednesday, March 30th.  No appointments are needed and the vaccine clinic will be set up inside the main entrance at the Lakewood campus. No insurance is needed. COVID testing will not be available at this site.  We plan to offer these vaccines every Wednesday through April and will continue if there is a demand after that.

We will send out additional information early next week regarding other protocol details.

Please know that we will continue to monitor the health and safety of all. If it becomes necessary, we will return to the appropriate protocol and notify you immediately.

Thank you for hanging in there during the pandemic.  Let’s move forward to this next phase together and continue to do it safely.

Michele Haney

President, Red Rocks Community College