

President's Message

Reflecting on the One-Year COVID-19 Anniversary

Dear Mt. SAC Family,

This week marks one year since Mt. SAC closed its physical campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The college's last full day on campus was March 19, 2020, when the governor called a stay-at-home order for the state. One year later, vaccinations are occurring across the world, with President Biden expecting vaccines to be available to all adults by May 1.

In this single year, we experienced unimaginable tests to our strength, patience, and mindset. We have felt the raw pain of loss, the uncertainty of navigating a new normal, and the cautious optimism of finding new knowledge, new processes, and new ways to teach and learn. And somehow, we have found a way to thrive. Our classes and services are fully online. Our students continue to graduate with degrees and certificates. And our indomitable Mt. SAC spirit continues to lift the college through challenges we never imagined a year ago. I am grateful for everything you've done for this college and everything you've done to continue on despite the challenges.

Mt. SAC will recognize this anniversary through an online COVID-19 reflection site and a moment of silence. We invite you to submit your reflection on the past year at www.mtsac.edu/united. The reflections will be posted online at 8 a.m., Friday, March 19. Then, at noon, the campus is invited to take part in a moment of silence. If your schedule permits, we encourage you to visit the reflection site and think about this historic year, which has significantly impacted us personally and globally.

Our collective resolve in responding to COVID-19 reflects the very best of Mt. SAC. I want to thank our faculty, staff and administrators for their resolve, creativity, and unwavering commitment to our academic mission. And I want to thank our students for their persistence and flexibility as they continued to find a way to learn and grow despite the difficult conditions created by the pandemic.

With vaccinations becoming more prevalent, we can see the end in sight. We are planning for a return to campus this Fall Semester, with broad classes available in-person as well as online. As we work hard to bring back life as we knew it, it's important to take a moment and reflect on how far we have come. I look forward to reflect as a community on Friday. Even though we will not be gathered on campus in person, we will continue to be together in spirit.

Bill

Dr. William T. Scroggins
president and CEO
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