



Greetings students,

I can't believe it is October! I hope your semester has been rewarding as you move through your courses at Palomar. Through great advocacy by your Associated Student Government, I am intending to send a monthly Palomar College update, with the intention of staying in touch during this remote environment.

To secure the health and safety of you and our faculty and staff, we track data on COVID-19 daily. What we know, is that data varies by state, and some are improving while others are getting worse. In San Diego county, we have recently increased testing, while seeing a slight uptick in diagnosed cases. At Palomar we are continuing to take the virus very seriously.

- Our temperature and COVID-19 symptom screening stations in lot 1 and lot 12 are currently open Monday – Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. I recently underwent a screening when I needed to be on campus and it was pleasant and quick.
- You should have already received an email from me regarding the course schedule for Spring 2021. In spring, most courses will be offered online, yet we are expanding the number of programs that will have face-to-face courses. The information is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). In addition, you should have received an explanation of the grading policy for the fall semester. This information is also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

While we continue to deal with the pandemic, we are also working really hard to address racial injustice in our society. Many faculty and staff leaders are determining ways we can address this at Palomar. One result, is the recent launch of our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion website. The [website](#) tracks all the good work that is being done toward our 10 items in our call to action.

The importance of voting has never been more tantamount than it is this November. The Student Life and Leadership team entered Palomar into the CA Ballot Bowl. We are proud that we are the leader amongst all other community colleges in the region for registering students to vote. Please see [Ballot Bowl](#) to check our standing. [Click here to register to vote.](#)

One wonderful new endeavor that we are supporting at Palomar College is a free drive-thru food distribution event. The event is held regularly in lot 12 at the main campus and is hosted by our classified and faculty unions in partnership with the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council. The next event is October 17 and will be followed by one on November 21. Don't forget our Foundation is available to help students with a variety of needs. The request for assistance form can be found [here](#).

Speaking of events, make sure you save the date for the next Q & A session with Palomar leaders on Thursday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. This is a great opportunity for all of us to connect and for you to get your questions answered. Check your Palomar email for the event registration information.

In addition to studying, and working and taking care of others, I hope you are finding time for yourself. Self-care is so important during this unusual and trying time. My wife and I have spent a lot of time this year expanding our garden and cooking with our new crops. We are growing all kinds of veggies including onions,

kale, chard, herbs, tomatoes, okra, and peppers. We have a lot of peppers! Truth be told, I am obsessed with hot peppers and have made hot sauces, and various dry rubs. I will keep you posted on how things are going!