



UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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November 12, 2020

Greetings United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) Campus Community!

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to impact all of us on a day to day basis. The United States leads the World in active and new COVID-19 cases, North Dakota leads the United States, and Burleigh/Morton Counties leads North Dakota. Governor Burgum announced on November 9, 2020 that all North Dakota's 53 counties will be moved to "High Risk" on November 10, 2020 at 8 am. The good news is that Pfizer has reported a COVID-19 vaccine that is 90% effective will be available in December; however, immunizations will not be readily available to the general public until possibly Summer 2021.

Based on this information, UTTC and Theodore Jamerson Elementary School (TJES) will maintain virtual synchronous learning environments until May 14, 2021 or spring semester end. Academic courses (non-CTE) will continue as virtual synchronous with faculty teaching virtually from their classrooms, offices, or homes via Zoom. Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses will continue to be provided by a combined virtual and face-to-face format to the end of Fall 2020 and for the upcoming Spring 2021 semester. TJES will be using Google Classroom, and ClassDojo and attend classes virtually through these formats. All UTTC classes, including CTE, will be virtual after Thanksgiving; thus, students may finish the Fall 2020 semester off campus.

Housing and dormitories will remain open. Students wishing to check out for the semester at the Thanksgiving break and not return until Spring Semester check-in (Family Housing – December 21, 2020; Dormitory - January 8, 2021) will receive a prorated credit. All students who choose to stay on campus are strongly recommended to obtain a COVID-19 test at one of the local free testing sites from November 30 to December 4, 2020 (<https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/symptoms-testing-care/where-get-covid-19-test>). The Gymnasium and Fitness Room will be open to only students and employees.

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) moved the start of the basketball season to January 2021 and student athletes will be given another year of eligibility due to the pandemic. The NJCAA has yet to make a final decision on the state of regular and postseason competition. UTTC will continue to monitor the situation and a final determination will be made by December 28, 2020.

Human Resources, Safety and Security, Residents Assistants, Cozy Creek, and Cafeteria are considered essential departments. All essential employees are required to obtain a COVID-19 test weekly at one of the local free testing sites starting November 23, 2020 until January 11, 2021. All remaining departments will maintain current rotations to ensure core operations continue across campus. Daycares will discontinue services from November 13, 2020 to January 4, 2021. Supervisors may move departments or positions to essential as needed to maintain efficiencies. All travel and campus events are cancelled until January 11, 2021. Facemasks, sanitizing, temperature checks, and social distancing, will be mandatory for all employees and students working or residing on campus in accordance with the UTTC COVID-19 Manual. Mask up and stay safe!

Blessings on you and your families!

Leander R. McDonald, PhD, President

"Leadership begins here"