

# COVID-19 HOW WE PIVOTED TO RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC

Scott Conrad, Ed.D., Interim Dean Academic Info Services, MiraCosta CC Fred Rocha, Executive Director of IT at Coast CCD James Temple, Ed.D., Vice President Technology at College of the Canyons Dan Watkins, Associate Vice Chancellor of IT at VCCCD



# The Impact of COVID-19 on IT Operations



Telecommute



Online/Remote Instruction



Coming Back



Lessons Learned



## 100% Telecommute

Close the campus and shift all non-essential employees to working remotely & shift instruction online.



## 100% Telecommute - Preparations

Communications - Web and email initially, broadcast text to students

- https://www.vcccd.edu/news/vcccd-alerts
- https://www.vcccd.edu/departments/informationtechnology/remote-access
- Hardware, Software, Access
  - <u>Up-to-date security software</u>- District computers, personal computing devices options?
  - Hardware- laptop, desktop, mobile devices, monitors, scanners, printers, cameras, headsets
  - Software- O365/Google Apps, VPN, Application Streaming/VDI, Video Conferencing, Adobe, Camtasia/Canvas Studio, remote support (RescueAssist/Zoom)
  - Other District Equipment- furniture (chairs, standup desks)
  - Access hotspots, new or upgraded home broadband access





Project Requests - requests requiring greater detail, resources, and coordination

**COVID-19 Equipment Requests** Request equipment to enable remote work



VCCCD

# 100% Telecommute - Prioritize & Adapt

















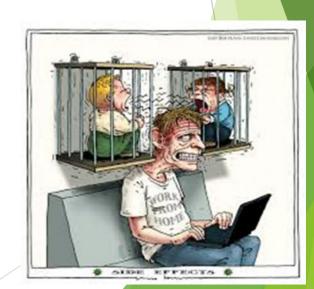


- Skype for Business/SharePoint/OneDrive -->Microsoft Teams- some users prefer this alternative for remote interaction- share docs, text, video chat
- VPN/DUO
- App Streaming
- Security Change- Add 2FA
- Roll out Adobe Sign- electronic signatures in PDFs
- Roll out softphones (software version of office phone)
- Increased support of Help Desk operations, email, online, chat, zoom support, remote software updates



# 100% Telecommute - Tech Team Adaptations

- Designate a space for work
- Schedule regular meetings with your teams
- Communication and Structure-Zoom... Zoom, encourage everyone to be live in video meetings (not static picture) Skype/Teams
- Learn to start and stop your day on a regular schedule
- Set Expectations & Model the behavior you expect of your team
- Work with employees and managers around Over Time, Comp Time and Vacation Time.





## Online/Remote Instruction- Faculty Transition

- Faculty Training-
  - Rapid Ramp-Up
  - Canvas & Zoom Training (In-Person, Online, and Recorded)
  - ► Train the Trainer, Faculty Mentors, Course Coordinators/Builders
  - ▶ Drive Thru Equipment Pickup, Direct Orders, Reimbursements
  - Video Production Assistance and Facilities
  - Office 365 & One Drive







"I think John is really getting into making remote teaching videos."



### Online/Remote Instruction- Student Transition

- Repurpose District owned laptops in labs
  - ▶ Partner with Student Services to identify most needy students first
- Purchase laptops to supplement District inventory
- Student Services coordinates who is eligible and pick up process following social distancing guidelines.
- State, local and Private Industry support for software access:
  - Adobe
  - SPSS
  - Labster
  - Beyond Labz
  - Proctorio
- Expanded Online Tutoring, Library, and Student Services









# 100% Online Instruction- Begins







- Zoom Meetings all Zoom, all the time.
  - Zoom Bombing and Security- multiple software updates and best practices
- **KEY ISSUES:** 
  - Life getting in the way
  - Access to reliable Internet (Home, Public Spaces, Hot Spots, Drive-Up WiFi)
  - Filling Software & Hardware needs for Instructors and Students
  - Student training to use technology
- Technical Support Reimagined
- ▶ Resource Website: www.canyons.edu/onlineeducation

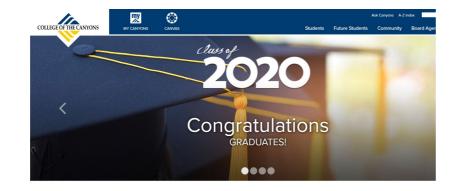


Chief Information Systems Officers Association

## Online in the summer and beyond

- ▶ Internet Access is a big equity issue. Large % of students do not have access at home.
- Continued Training to help faculty transition from "Remote" to "Online" teaching.
- **Equipment reclaim and reissue** to students and part-time faculty.
- **Software application** availability needed to be extended through the fall.
- ► Outreach how do you reach graduating seniors when they are home schooling? Social Media ads on YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Spotify, etc. Go where they are.
- ▶ Virtual Commencement required expanded IT support beyond sound checks.
- Board Meetings, Senate Meetings, Committee Meetings and more go full remote.

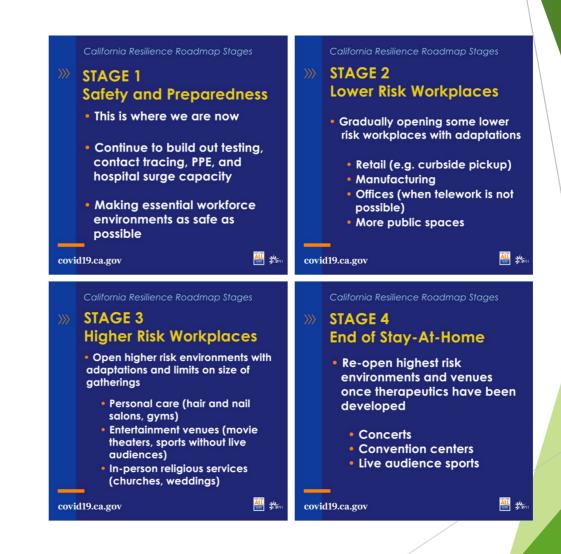






# Coming Back - Planning & Logistics

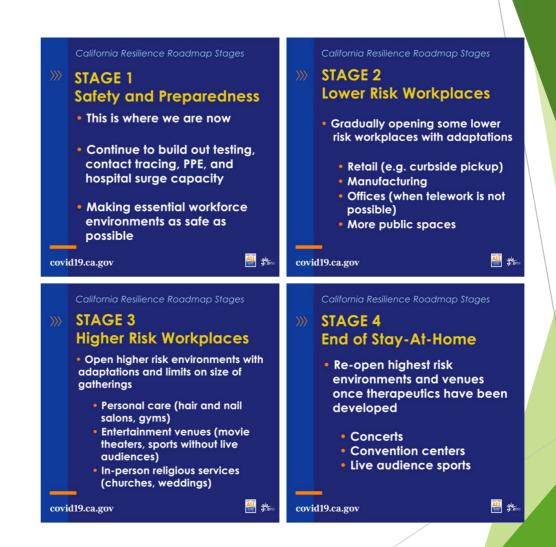
- Starting Planning- Categorize classes relative to importance of face to face
  - Automotive?
  - Nursing?
  - Welding?
- Moving from Remote Work Plans to Return to Work Plans
  - What Resources are Needed Back On Site?
  - What Modifications are Needed to Current Instructional and Support Staff Spaces?
  - Who is Impacted by the Modifications?
  - What about Employees with Higher Risk Factors?





# Coming Back - Planning & Logistics

- Consult with Experts in this Arena
  - Develop Your Needs List
  - Brainstorm Options
  - Implement in Alignment with Recommendations of Consultants and Local Regulations
- What Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will be
  - Required for Staff?
  - Who will provide it?
- What Cleaning Supplies Are
  - Available?
  - Effective?
  - Non-detrimental People and Equipment?





### Lessons Learned so far...

- Amazing teams and dedication to support all of our students and employees
- Tracking computers and making sure they are configured for security and remote updating a MUST before they leave campus.
- Training- use Canvas, Zoom, Teams, etc. to train our staff and faculty how to work remotely and use the tools.
- Less is more- many tools overlap, e.g., Zoom and Teams. Offer multiple tools if you must but recommend the solution that provides the most benefit to the most users that you can support.
- Communications- Web, Zoom, Email, Text, Softphones, Teams, Canvas, etc. Be consistent, be aligned and make sure you are reaching everyone.

### Lessons Learned so far...

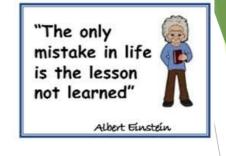
- ► Help the whole person- a laptop, software and hotspot are tools, many students lost their jobs, all employees and students experienced new stress from the changes.
- **EAP** Managers encourage your employees to seek help.
- **Be Kind to Yourself and Others-** Acknowledge that we are all less efficient working from home, it is new.
- Practice Social Distancing NOT Social Isolation- reach out to your employees, communicate consistently and frequently.

Essential workers trying to process the 35th policy change in the last 3 weeks



#### Lessons Learned Common Denominators

- Change is the only certainty
- Systems must be flexible to bigger and faster changes
- The more connected we are the more vulnerable we are
- Scenario planning is critical
- Sharing best practices at the speed of communications

















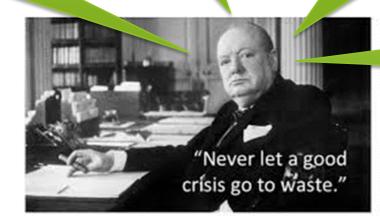


# Questions?

We can pivot fast and successfully

Some lab classes can be taught online

Telecommuting Works!



We can work paperless



### Technical recommendations

#### **Future Considerations**

Training- online self-help, e.g., Chancellor's Office Vision Resource Center free access to
Lynda.com training materials for all CCC employees. Lynda.com, in Learning, and skillsoft
trainings/workshops are included free for all state employees. Vision Resource Center. Here is
the link: <a href="https://visionresourcecenter.cccco.edu/">https://visionresourcecenter.cccco.edu/</a>





- CCC Systemwide Common tools at best prices and support, e.g., Canvas, Zoom, Microsoft O365, Turn-it-in, Proctorio. Opportunity: Common ERP, e.g., HR/FIN/Student like CSU but with cloud architecture for more cost effective scaling for all CCCs.
- Less is More
  - Standardize on what software you will use for what → pick fewer
    - Canvas LMS
    - Zoom teleconferencing or Teams
    - O365 or G-Suite
    - Adobe Sign for electronic signatures (part of Adobe Suite)
    - ERP- all PeopleSoft, or Ellucian, or Workday → Keep It Simple Stupid, KISS
  - Standardize Hardware- laptop and desktop computer versions, external monitors and other peripherals → Easier to swap and support fast, help desk can assist more efficiently, FAQs self-help easier and more used, e.g., self-help videos

## Technical recommendations

#### **Future Considerations**

#### Software

- Usable with low bandwidth connections- DSL, Cellular, etc.
- Multi-platform compatible- Windows, iOS, Android, Linux, etc. "OS/Browser Agnostic"
- Scalable? Cost ease of adding more licenses, extra cost to scale?
- Secure? → Single Sign On and 2FA compatible
- Ease of updating remotely 
   Cloud based vs. Server based
- Ease of use and remote user support

#### Hardware

- o Rugged enough for home use?
- Easy to configure for a home network remotely?
- Robust enough to use all day, e.g., ultra light small laptops and tablets not so much
- Ergonomic considerations
  - Keyboards
  - Mice
  - Cameras- built in or separate?
  - Sound system- headset? Bluetooth speakers?
  - Extra monitor(s)
  - Arms for monitors?
  - Sit/Stand desk?
  - Chairs?
  - Other Peripherals, e.g., scanners and printers
- o Install security software, remote connectivity and tracking BEFORE it leaves the building
- o Remote firmware upgrades?
- o Remote access for applications software upgrades?
- o Remote image support, e.g., VMWare Horizon, VPN