

# Monday Message

Oct. 4, 2021



## President's Message

Dear all,

This week I will travel to Boise to present our facilities needs requests to the Idaho Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council (PBFAC). This Council works on behalf of the Idaho Division of Public Works, which oversees statewide facilities management, maintenance and construction. The PBFAC is responsible for considering, vetting and recommending funding (or not) to the Legislature associated with state agency facility needs. As you are likely aware, LC State, like its Idaho sister four-year institutions, is considered a state agency. This year our funding requests (categorized as required by PBFAC as capital requests, alterations and repairs and ADA compliance) focus on preserving and restoring campus facilities. Our requests, which largely reflect infrastructure needs identified through our recently completed deferred maintenance study, total in excess of \$30 million. Yes, it is a lot; and there is really no way for me to know at this point what kind of support we can expect. That said, preserving and restoring our 128-plus-year-old campus, a true Idaho gem, is key to our ability to serve our education mission and the citizens of Idaho into the next 100 years; and so this week I will begin to make the case for state support to help address our deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs.

**Oct. 1 Vaccination Update:** 781 LC students are vaccinated – most of which are full-time face-to-face degree-seeking students. While overall (full time and part time considered) our student vaccination rate is hovering between 25-30%ish, when disaggregated by some or all face-to-face, degree-seeking status, the percentage of our students in this category closes in on 40%, and for our resident students it is near 50%. Among employees we are quite literally an island of relative safety compared to our state and region. Our employee vaccination rate is around 70%, and if we add in medical exemptions (meaning individuals who have had COVID within the past 90 days) our percentage climbs to just over 74%. I remain hopeful that 80% or better can be realized in the not too distant future, and am incredibly proud of our faculty and staff for demonstrating their care for each other, our collective health and safety, and desire to do all we can to bring the pandemic to an end.

Cynthia Pemberton, Ed.D.  
President

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## Events

- **Sept. 24-Dec. 10 – Center for Arts & History Exhibit** – The Center for Arts & History is featuring [The Land of Persepolis: Introducing Persian Culture to the West](#).
  - **Oct. 5 – Tuesday at Two** – There will be no Tuesday at Two this week due to President Pemberton's travel schedule.
  - **Oct. 7 – Career Fair** – LC State's [Career, Internship, & Graduate School Fair](#) is Thursday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Activity Center.
  - **Oct. 9 – Community Drone Day** – The Schweitzer Career & Technical Education Center is hosting Community Drone Day on Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Learn more at [www.lcsc.edu/drone-day](http://www.lcsc.edu/drone-day).
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## Announcements

- **Coronavirus Updates & Risk Level:** For the latest coronavirus updates and information visit [www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus](http://www.lcsc.edu/coronavirus). In accordance with its [Operational Levels Matrix](#), LC State's current risk level is: Moderate.
  - **Cases Update:** Currently there are **5** active cases and **1** student in isolation in campus housing.
  - **Reporting Line:** If someone believes they were exposed to someone with an active case of COVID-19 or believes they are infected themselves, they should contact the campus COVID-19 Reporting Line at 208-792-2002 for guidance.
  - **Vaccine Availability:** To schedule an appointment with Public Health - Idaho North Central District visit [www.idahoprepmo.com](http://www.idahoprepmo.com) or call 208-799-3100. Because we are delivering education face to face, LC State employees qualify for vaccine booster shots.
  - **Continuing Weekly Testing:** LC State will plan to continue its weekly surveillance testing program through the fall semester (assuming the state supply of tests continues to be available), and is working to implement onboarding testing during the month of January for the spring semester.
  - **Vault Tests Accuracy:** The Vault Test is a saliva-based, RT-qPCR test that detects specific genes from the SARS-CoV-2 virus – the virus that causes COVID-19. The test is very sensitive to the presence of SARS-CoV-2, with 98% of tests providing either a positive or negative result. The test can detect fewer than 10 copies of viral genes per milliliter of saliva and can detect the virus within two days of infection. Because it tests specific to SARS-CoV-2, it does not test for the flu.
  - **Staff/Offices Tasked with Distributing Masks:** The college has a limited supply of masks to provide when people forget or otherwise need them, but these are primarily intended for campus guests who were not aware of the campus mask policy before coming to campus. Offices that are distributing face masks should be mindful of this and monitor how often an individual student is coming in to get a one-time use face mask. Individual judgment about distributing a mask to current students more than once will be respected but it is perfectly acceptable to send a student back to their vehicle, apartment, or dorm room to retrieve their own masks if they make repeated requests.
- **Director of College Advancement/Exec Director of LCSC Foundation:** Three finalists will present to the campus community on Oct. 6, 7, and 8 to share their ideas about growing the Foundation assets for LC State. The presentations will be held in the Administration Building, Room 203, and will also be available via Zoom at: <https://lcsc.zoom.us/j/83772541843>
  - Oct. 6, 3:15 p.m. – Jennie Jones Hall
  - Oct. 7, 3:15 p.m. – Melissa Weitz
  - Oct. 8, 10:25 a.m. – Courtney Kramer
  - The opportunity to provide feedback will be available at [www.lcsc.edu/position-search](http://www.lcsc.edu/position-search). All comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8.
- **Security Coordinator:** The Department of Public Safety would like to welcome Dustin Guenther to its team as its security coordinator. Dustin comes to LC State with a wealth of knowledge and experience, earning his master's degree in social work from Boise State University, and working the last several years with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. In addition to patrolling

campus, Dustin will collaborate with departments across campus to coordinate safety and security programming for students and staff.

- **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month:** Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) began in October 1987 as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while raising awareness for those issues. Over the last 34 years, much progress has been made to support victims and survivors, bring awareness to the issue, and hold abusers accountable. We all must work together to confront the issue of domestic violence in our communities. In 2019, President Pemberton proclaimed October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month at Lewis-Clark State College. This proclamation provides an excellent opportunity for our campus to learn more about preventing domestic violence, bystander intervention, and to show support for the local organizations and college faculty and staff providing critical advocacy, services, and assistance to survivors. Throughout the month of October, you will see various symbols of support across campus from ribbons and shadow people to information cards about healthy relationships. You are also invited to wear purple throughout the month as a sign of support for victims and survivors of domestic violence. For more information, visit:
  - On Campus: [Office of the Title IX Coordinator | Lewis-Clark State \(lcsc.edu\)](#)
  - In the Community: [YWCA of Lewiston and Clarkston \(ywcaidaho.org\)](#)
  - Nationally: [Learn to Love Better - One Love Foundation \(joinonelove.org\)](#)
- **Surplus Office Supplies:** Before departments order office supplies, they might want to check the surplus office supplies room in the Administration Building to save money. The supply room will be open for collection/donation of office supplies on Monday, Oct. 11; Wednesday, Oct. 13; and Friday, Oct. 15, from 8-10 a.m. ONLY. Contact the President's Office at X2216.
- **October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month:** The STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Campaign created by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency is a national public awareness campaign to increase the understanding of cyber threats and empower the American public to be safer and more secure online. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. We each have to do our part to keep the internet safe. When we all take simple steps to be safer online, it makes using the internet a more secure experience for everyone. Five every day steps to improve online safety:
  - Enable multi-factor authentication whenever possible.
  - Consider using a passphrase instead of a password. A passphrase is a sentence-like string of words used instead of a password and is longer than a traditional password, easy to remember, and difficult to crack.
  - Keep a clean machine. Update the security software, operating system, and web browser on all of your internet-connected devices.
  - When in doubt, throw it out. Links in email and online posts are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious (even if you know the source), delete it.
  - Share with care. Limit the amount of personal information you share online and use privacy settings to avoid sharing information widely.
- **Mental Health Resource:** A reminder that there's a new mental health resource available for all LC State students, faculty and staff. Therapy Assisted Online (TAO) includes over 150 brief, effective, self-help educational sessions covering over 50 common topics and skills related to mental health, wellness, and substance use issues. TAO includes interactive sessions, mindfulness exercises and practice tools all aimed at helping you achieve your goals. [Learn more and register for an account online.](#) Contact the Student Counseling Center at [counseling@lcsc.edu](mailto:counseling@lcsc.edu) or 208-792-2211 if you have questions.

- **Student Survey:** Students have been sent the annual Student Survey. Please encourage students to respond. Responses will help us better support and serve our students. The survey will close Monday, Oct. 11, at 5 p.m. Results of the last annual all student survey can be found on the [intranet](#).
- **Seeding Our Tomorrows:** “In addition to our ‘normal’ recruit efforts and targets, beginning this fall Admissions has embarked on an aggressive campaign to leverage technology to initiate and enhance high school recruitment connections in regions with population demographics that are largely rural (e.g., parts of western Washington and Oregon, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, parts of Utah, Alaska and Hawaii). The initiative specifically targets communities with populations of 50,000 or less. Letters and information packets are being drafted to send to high school principals from me, as President, simultaneous with information from our Admissions staff to high school counselors. Admissions staff will follow-up by hosting virtual high school counselor sessions via Zoom in early November, as well as student-focused Zoom sessions. While certainly some of the high schools identified are schools who know us and with whom we have longstanding recruit relationships, for a fair number, however, this targeted outreach and focused connection will be new. Special thanks to our Warrior OneStop staff and Admissions crew for pursuing new ways to make technology work for us, and coordinating and launching this initiative!” – President Pemberton
- **Campus Song for the Week:** ["Jump Into the Fire" \(we can make each other happy\)](#) by Harry Nilsson.
- **Physical Plant Reminders:**
  - Employees are not required to clean high-touch surfaces after each class or in common areas. Custodians are cleaning these surfaces nightly. Supplies are available in classrooms and offices for anyone who chooses to wipe down surfaces.
  - Offices will remain on a once-a-week cleaning schedule, so if trash needs to be taken out more often please place it outside your door for pick up (for liquid or strong odor items, please take directly to trash bins near your building).
  - All employees and students should bring their own face coverings to campus. The college is supplying a backup supply only. Backup face coverings can be found in [designated locations](#) in each building. If your building’s supply runs low please contact Public Safety.
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- **HR Updates:**
  - The state is preparing for Cyber Security Awareness Month in October. In an effort to enhance awareness of the cyber threats we face every day, they will be sending out a training campaign that focuses on relevant threats. Please be prepared to receive an email from [cybertraining@dhr.idaho.gov](mailto:cybertraining@dhr.idaho.gov). It is NOT spam.
  - Save the date for the LC Employee Resource (formerly Benefits) Fair. Oct. 14 from noon to 3:30 p.m. It will be held outside (weather permitting), otherwise, it will be held in the Activity Center mezzanine with COVID-19 protocols in place. Vendors, health screenings, flu shots and COVID-19 vaccination clinic, door prize drawings, and giveaways!
  - If you want to opt-out of weekly COVID-19 testing, you may swing by HR to verify your vaccine card.
  - Two (2) Supervisory Academy online cohorts begin Oct. 5 or Oct. 13. For more information, click visit <https://dhr.idaho.gov/full-day-trainings-2> or call HRS at x2269.

