



Whitman Today

Monday, April 27, 2020

Weekly Update from the President



Coronavirus News

Walla Walla County saw six new positive coronavirus tests since Friday. That brings the total to 57 confirmed cases in the county. Fifteen local residents have recovered from the virus.

Nationwide, about a dozen states have restrictions that are set to expire this week, and it's unclear whether they'll be extended. Federal coronavirus response coordinators say Americans should expect social distancing guidelines to continue for months.

[Whitman Coronavirus Website](#)

Announcements

Celebrating the Class of 2020 Virtually

After gathering feedback from seniors and their families, Whitman College is moving forward with plans to celebrate the Class of 2020 with a virtual commencement. The event will happen on the original commencement date and time: Sunday, May 24 at 11 a.m. It will have many of the traditional components of commencement. President Murray, Board of Trustees Chair Nancy Serrurier and the elected senior speaker will make remarks, and Provost Alzada Tipton will read the name of every senior. The 2020 commencement speaker will be Katie Krummeck from Whitman's Class of 2003. Krummeck is an educational designer and thought leader on leveraging the power of design to drive change. When we are able, Whitman College will gather the Class of 2020 together again to celebrate together, hopefully in the fall of 2020. As we get closer, we'll share instructions for how everyone in the Whitman community can attend this year's virtual commencement.

Update on Off-Campus Studies for Fall/Spring Semester

Off-Campus Studies (OCS) continues to advise students who are seeking to study away next year and provide guidance to students who returned home early from spring 2020 programs. OCS is monitoring health and safety conditions, as well as travel restrictions, around the world to inform decisions about whether off-campus study will be permitted in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. OCS will notify students planning to study away during fall semester by June 1 about the status of their program. Students are encouraged to sign up for fall semester courses and request on-campus housing as a backup. The deadline to apply for spring 2021 OCS experiences has been extended to June 1. [Additional information is available on the OCS website.](#)

Campus Resources

The Student Engagement Center SCA's Malia Brooks and Emma Saas are offering virtual drop-in hours via Google Chat every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. and Thursday 3-4 p.m. They are also available for virtual 1:1 appointments. Email Malia or Emma to schedule a chat about resume/cover letter/CV advice or assistance with your summer Whitman Internship Grant applications.

[Coronavirus FAQs](#)

Health Reminder

Are you feeling anxiety related to COVID-19? One tip is to limit the time you spend both on social media and reading and watching constant news reports. Turn to one or two trusted sources if you need updated information. Self-care is so important. Take a break from the news and listen to a funny podcast or find a way to treat yourself. [Find more tips for relieve stress during this time.](#)

[Health and Social Distancing Tips](#)

Happening Tomorrow

4 p.m.

[David Schmitz on The Liberal Arts Crisis in the 1970s](#)
Robert Allen Skotheim Chair of History David Schmitz will discuss the problems that faced by liberal arts colleges in the mid-1970s and examine one key response by the Skotheim administration: the professionalization of the faculty.

[More Upcoming Events](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed daily to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time. Previous newsletters can be found on the [Whitman Today archive website](#).

To submit items, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. The deadline for newsletter submissions is 4 p.m. the prior business day.

