



Whitman Today

Monday, June 22, 2020

Whitman College Inclusion Task Force



The new Whitman College Inclusion Task Force announced by President Kathy Murray earlier this month has been assembled and began individual and small group work last week. Chaired by Thomas Witherspoon, vice president for diversity and inclusion, the full task force met today for the first time.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Faculty small group: Gaurav Majumdar, associate professor of English; Telara McCullough, director of human resources; Gabby Rose, sophomore from Illinois; Barry Balof, faculty chair

Staff small group: Adeline Rother, senior adjunct assistant professor of general studies and composition; Andrew Johnson, interim director of student activities and associate director of residence life and housing; Maria Martinez, sophomore from Florida; Thomas Witherspoon, vice president for diversity and inclusion

Student small group: Nate Boland, associate professor of Chemistry; Laura Sanchez, director of the Intercultural Center; Erik Scott, sophomore from Texas; Kazi Joshua, vice president for student affairs

Members at large: Heidi Pitts, internal communications strategist; Sneha Chachra, sophomore from California and president of ASWC

Over the next month, updates and resources from the task force will be shared on the [Inclusion Task Force webpage](#) and in Whitman Today. [A list of anti-racism resources](#) provides a common starting point as we more deeply engage the journey to inclusion.

Coronavirus News

The [Walla Walla County Department of Health](#) reported 23 new coronavirus cases in the past week. Of the total 141 confirmed cases, 112 residents are now recovered and 26 are in isolation. Walla Walla County has applied for entrance to a modified version of Phase 3 of the state Safe Start economic reopening plan that would continue to limit large group gatherings to 25 people. The county remains in Phase 2 pending the result of this application.

Coronavirus Task Force Update: Slowly Reopening Campus

Last week the Hall of Science became the first building on campus to reopen to non-essential workers. Over the next two weeks, the Coronavirus Task Force plans to follow up with all essential workers who have been on campus and open five further buildings: Memorial Buiding, Maxey Hall, Olin Hall, Whitman Technology Services Building and Boyer House. Human Resources will contact employees who are authorized to return to campus with training, policies and procedures.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee may release state guidelines for higher ed institutes later this week. These guidelines are expected to provide important details that inform how we continue to prepare for the fall semester.

[Whitman's Coronavirus Info Center](#)

Announcements

The 134th Commencement Program Available

The [official program of the 134th Commencement](#) featuring the full list of graduates, latin honors and other student and faculty award recipients is now available online to view or download.

Webinars on Hybrid Teaching

As we continue to plan for Fall 2020, we have a series of webinars lined up in the coming week, including four sessions on hybrid teaching and one session on writing a book proposal. All webinars will be led by Whitman faculty and staff and will give participants an opportunity to have some face-to-face contact and interaction with one another as well as time for Q&A and sharing ideas. Webinar topics and join links can be found on the [website events calendar](#).

Happening This Week

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

12 p.m.

[Home Alone Conversation Group for Employees](#)

A weekly virtual meeting for faculty and staff who are working from home, alone. This is an open, drop-in style group.

[More Upcoming Events](#)

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

Seen Around Campus



Liam Dubay gained several new skills this spring. He learned to play the five-string Baroque cello, an instrument, which Whitman College purchased last year. He also figured out how to splice together video so he could create a unique self-duet performance for his final project of the semester. [Get the full story in this article](#) on the Whitman newsroom.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed weekly 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 submissions is 12 p.m. Friday for the following week's newsletter.



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