

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear PPCC Students, Staff and Faculty, I'm delighted that our Communications folks suggested doing this digital *Stall Street Journal*. Ordinarily, this is the newsletter you'd see in our campus bathrooms, and sending out some information in this format feels like a way to instill some sense of normalcy into what is such a profoundly un-normal time.

My most important message to you is to thank you for being patient with us. We've heard from so many students, staff and faculty who have been affected by the college's transition to only online classes and services as well as the swirl of complexities encompassing their lives right now. My heart goes out to you, and our college leadership team will do everything we can to help everyone get through this.

Our primary missions are to continue to support your educational journeys and to keep you safe in the process. Below you'll see some of the changes we're making, most of them based on mandates from our governor and recommendations from health officials.

But my message to students and faculty is this—no matter what our students are going through and no matter their situation and our mandates, I want all our decision-making going forward to come with an added layer of compassion, a recognition that extra accommodations that might have made small differences during normal times can make monumental differences today.

Together, we're facing not just a pandemic but this fog of the unknown that can be so all-consuming. Facing that in physical isolation makes it all that much tougher. But know that the isolation is only physical, that our college, your instructors, your friends and family, they're still here for you to help you get through this.

Stay safe. Wash your hands.

**Dr. Lance Bolton**  
PPCC President

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Commencement Will Transform

The planned Commencement at the Broadmoor World Arena at 10 a.m. May 16 is being reimaged as PPCC's first Virtual Commencement.

Yeah, we know. It won't replace walking down that aisle, and there's still a possibility that an in-person Commencement could happen later in the year or that you could walk next year.

But, for now, based on your feedback and with what we're hoping will be a huge collaboration with students, staff and faculty, we're working on a Virtual Commencement that could be extraordinary.

At this point, here's the plan (recognizing how outside forces have messed with many of our plans):

- It will be a virtual video event (at 10 a.m. May 16 on PPCC-TV—Comcast channel 21, channel 78 on Falcon Broadband, and 8002 on Century Link PrismTV—and the PPCC Facebook page) with a welcome from PPCC President Dr. Lance Bolton.
- It will feature a call out of the names of graduates and winners of special honors.

But the most important thing it will feature is you.

- If you're a student, please send us a short video (less than 60 seconds, and you can shoot it on your phone) about how you're getting through the pandemic, your plans for the future or a comment on a family member, staff member or instructor who made a difference for you. Please use [this form](#).
- If you're a staff or faculty member, please send us a short video with insights about your students or words of advice for our graduates. Students, staff and faculty can send us those videos, along with photos of themselves, through [this form](#).

We're also wanting to feature student achievements. If there's writing, artwork or a performance of which you're particularly proud, attach that as well.

Together, we will make this thing special.

### Academics and Support

If you've been keeping up with the emails the college has been sending out ([and you can see them all here](#)), and if you heard about Gov. Polis' recent Stay-at-Home order, you probably know that as we resume classes today (March 30), they are exclusively online.

Your instructors have probably contacted you through your official college email and your D2L shell about how your class will proceed. If you haven't seen any communications, please reach out to them.

We know this transition to online will be challenging, but our instructors remain fiercely dedicated to your success. Your best option is to work with your teachers and pass your classes. If you are unable to complete your course, an "Incomplete" grade may be allowed by your teacher. A grade of "Incomplete" gives you extra time to complete the course. This would be especially appropriate if you get sick and need extra time to complete the course, or you do not have access to the resources on campus you need.

As a final option, you may withdraw from the course. This will show up as a "W" on your transcript. It will not hurt your GPA, and you could be eligible for a scholarship to help retake the class, but you will not receive a refund. Not sure what to do? Talk to your teacher and discuss what is needed to complete the course successfully. Most of you are closer than you realize to earning a final grade in your classes!

Our campuses will be open to some staff and faculty only. Tutoring, testing, advising and other support are now [available remotely](#). Please direct any questions about our upcoming plans to your instructors or [covid@ppcc.edu](mailto:covid@ppcc.edu).

### SGA Vote

Student Government vote postponed until April 27.

## RESOURCES

### Virtual Resources

We know that students need help—help with accessibility, how to find online tutors, and how to get counseling on the phone.

#### PPCC Services

- You can find all that and more at [ppcc.edu/remote-services](http://ppcc.edu/remote-services).

#### Communication Tools

- [Comcast internet essentials](#)
- [Microsoft Teams](#) for staying connected with classmates
- [Zoom](#) for classroom sessions

#### Mental Health

- [CDC Mental Health Page](#)
- A meditation app Headspace is offering [free virtual sessions](#)
- The PPCC Counseling Center is offering counseling sessions by phone: 719-502-4782

#### Hygiene/Safety

- [CDC Guidelines](#)

#### Families

- Visit museums, zoos, and aquariums around the globe with [virtual tours](#)
- [Virtual field trips](#) for kids of all ages
- Creating [routines and structure](#)
- [Building strong family relationships](#)

#### Online Learning Tips

Here are some things that will help you succeed:

- Stay in touch with your instructor
- Take advantage of remote tutoring
- Make a work schedule and stick to it

You can get more [online learning tips here](#).

#### Need help?

Contact your instructor, call our help line at (719) 502-2000 or email [StudentSupport@PPCC.edu](mailto:StudentSupport@PPCC.edu).

### Enroll Now

You still have plenty of time to enroll for summer or fall semesters. Enroll through [Navigate](#) or [myPPCC Portal](#).