Dear Colleagues,

Here we are in July! Where is the time going? I hope that those of you on summer break are having a great time and for those of us who are 12-month employees, I hope you are taking some time off for vacation as well.

Have Passport – Will Travel!

In my June message, I let you know of a forthcoming Travel Policy. The policy is in place and can be found here: covid_109_returning_to_work_on_campus_after_travel_june_2021_policy_8_20210621.pdf (ohlone.edu)

Our goal is to keep everyone safe. As such we are adhering to the CDC guidelines regarding travel and our policy mirrors their recommendations. You should review the CDC guidelines as well. Below are the relevant links:

CDC Domestic Travel guidelines

CDC International Travel
Weekly Reconnect Activities – Ohlone Way Quad-
Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon
All invited

We are hosting a series on activities on Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon on Ohlone Way. These activities have been carefully planned to allow for safe engagement while having the most fun. The first one was held on Wednesday July 7. The laughter and chatter reminded me of the old times! Below is the list of what we have planned for the next few Wednesdays. We hope you use this opportunity to take a break, walk out to the quad and engage!
VAX UP – STAY SAFE!

That brings me to an important topic of getting vaccinated. Our COVID Project Manager, Rob Moore wrote a good information piece about vaccinations. You don’t want to miss that! Here is an excerpt of the article. “Our last Return to Campus (RTC) message was about how testing for COVID-19 is an essential tool in our efforts to keep our college safe as we carefully make efforts to return to campus and incrementally and safely add more in-person instruction this fall. Testing allows us to identify potentially infectious individuals so that we can both help them manage any personal health issues and to prevent them from potentially infecting others on campus and in our workplace. To date, our on-campus testing has returned a very low rate of positive tests: well under 1% of tests have been positive. We now have another very important tool at our disposal to help us in our RTC efforts: vaccines for COVID-19. We have had some time to evaluate the results of vaccination, and we can make these general observations....” Read more at: https://www.ohlone.edu/rtc/employees/rtc-employee-communication

Send Us Proof That You Are Fully Vaccinated By September 15, 2021

Enter into drawing for cash!

We are currently asking all employees to upload their proof of vaccination at this link: https://ohlone.sharefile.com/r-raad80dddd4e164630b85cd34b4675eea8. If you are unable to locate your vaccination card and you got vaccinated in California, you can obtain a digital copy within a few minutes by going to this website: https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/

All employees, whether you have already submitted or plan to submit proof of being fully vaccinated will be entered into a drawing for cash prizes. All submittals of proof of vaccinations must be received by September 15, 2021 in order to be eligible. This applies to full-time and part-time, temporary and permanent employees. Temporary employees must be actively employed by the district as of September 15, 2021 in order to participate. Thanks to the Foundation, we are able to offer up to six (6) $500 cash awards. More information on this will be forthcoming.
If you are unable to be vaccinated due to a medical condition please contact me directly at szingsheim@ohlone.edu as you may be able to participate in the drawing with an approved accommodation.

As of a week ago, approximately 85% of all managers, 45% of classified employees and 30% of full-time faculty (even though faculty are on summer break) have submitted their proof of being fully vaccinated. We are working on tallying up part-time faculty and other temporary employees who have submitted proof.

Overall, the District strongly believes that having a high percentage of employees who are fully vaccinated will ensure the safety of all. As we move towards slowing opening this fall it is our goal to have 85% of all employees and an equal percentage of students attending in-person classes fully vaccinated. We are beginning discussions about mandating vaccines for both employees and students. This is an important discussion and we will be seeking your input.

WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS

Foundation, Community and Corporate Education, Community Relations, Marketing, Superintendent/President and Staff; Vice President of Technology Services + staff; Information Technology Support and Services, Purchasing, Contract Administration, Auxiliary Services and Haz Mat, Civic and Smith Center

This past month we welcomed serval departments/divisions as noted above. It is great to see so many employees back on campus! In addition to Maintenance, Facilities, Campus Police and IT, the following departments/divisions have fully transitioned back to working on campus: Student Services (offering in-person service between 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at both Fremont and Newark); Academic Affairs (both Fremont and Newark); Superintendent/President’s office and staff; Civic and Smith Center Operations, Purchasing, Community and Corporate Education, Public Information Office and the Communications Director, Marketing, Foundation, Administrative and Technology Services. We have 82% of our total non-faculty permanent employees back working on campus!
NAME CHANGE: RTC to RTC 2.0

As you know, the Return to Campus committee began meeting in May 2020 in response to the pandemic. We started off with over 45 members and later ended up splitting the group in two: RTC Chairs (meeting once per week) and the RTC Committee (once per month). These groups have accomplished a tremendous amount of planning, capacity building, educating our community, training, kept up with the ever-changing environment and writing and executing plans. This list can’t begin to capture the amount of time, dedication and commitment of these groups. As mentioned above, we have approximately 82% of all permanent administrators and staff back working on campus, therefore we are thinking of shifting our focus and thus our name – hence RTC 2.0. More info on this later.

Dr. Bishop’s June 24th Message

Dr. Bishop’s email dated June 24, 2021 outlined the major changes following the State of California announcement of being fully reopened. These changes are effective July 1, 2021. Below is an excerpt for the key changes
OUTDOORS USE OF FACE COVERING AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING
Effective July 1, 2021, all employees, whether fully vaccinated or not, do not need to wear face coverings when outdoors. Fully vaccinated employees can forego the physical distancing requirements (6 feet apart) when outdoors. Unvaccinated employees can also forego physical distancing outdoors, but it is recommended that they wear a face covering. Note: Face coverings are required for all employees, students and visitors while indoors.

COVID-19 TESTING AND QUARANTINING:
Fully vaccinated employees* do not need to be tested* or quarantined after close contacts with COVID-19 cases unless they have symptoms. Procedures for unvaccinated employees* who have close contact with COVID-19 cases will follow testing and quarantining requirements that are currently in place. Note that surveillance testing (which is different than the testing referred to above) will continue for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated employees until further notice. Testing is available on-site on Wednesdays from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

USE OF EQUIPMENT:
Employees are able to use shared equipment such as coffee pots, microwaves, refrigerators, copiers, etc. Care should still be used by wiping after use. Water dispensers removed from offices for safety reasons can now be replaced. Bathrooms protocols that included reduced number of sinks and stalls can now be used without limitations.

*If you come in close contact or contracted COVID-19, please notify your supervisor and contact me at szingsheim@ohlone.edu or (408) 375-5238. Stay home if you are sick.

The Sun will come out… tomorrow… bet your bottom dollar….That tomorrow there will be sun!
And indeed, the sun has come out and we are on our way to recovery and getting back
to our core work of serving our communities, our families and making contributions we
value. For most of you, it is being educators and paying it forward in all that you do.
Your campus is well prepared to welcome you back safely. We hope to see your smiling
faces soon! In the meantime --"you gotta hang on till tomorrow, come what may ….the
start of the fall semester is only 8 weeks away!"

End of July 2021 Message

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In case you missed the June edition of “Message from Human Resources” –
here is a recap of a few subjects that are still relevant.

OHLONE IS STILL A “MASK REQUIRED” ZONE!

Ohlone remains a “Mask Required” Zone! Until further notice all employees, students and visitors to
any of our campuses or inside of our campus buildings will need to wear a mask. Masks are
available at any of our symptom screening stations – Just ask! This policy applies whether or not
you are fully vaccinated. All other social distancing protocols are in place as well!

REFLECTIONS AS 2020-21 COMES TO A CLOSE
Ohlone Cares!

As fiscal year 2020-21 is drawing to a close, we look forward to the start of the new year with renewed hope and vision for an even better Ohlone and world. With the significant decline of positive cases of COVID-19 and substantial number of vaccinations in arms, we look forward optimistically to the return to working on campus as we welcome back our employees and students.

Appointments for vaccinations are more widely available now, so if you are interested in being vaccinated, please schedule appointments or go to a walk-in clinic. We look forward to interacting and socializing in a responsible and safe manner as pandemic restrictions are loosened or lifted. We appreciate staff being responsive to student needs during the pandemic and appreciate staff handling the pandemic in a professional and supportive manner.

As we come back on campus, let’s put 2020-21 behind us and move forward with renewed commitment to each other, the work we do and the lives we touch. Remember that we embrace diversity, equality, and inclusion. We embrace everyone’s voice being respected and heard. We support and promote justice and fairness. We are actively working on promoting equity in our programs and encouraging students to pursue areas in which there is an underrepresentation of students of color or gender.

For over 7 years, Ohlone has had an Institutional Code of Ethics in AP 3050. [https://www.ohlone.edu/board-trustees/policies-administrative-procedures/ap-3050-institutional-code-ethics-administrative](https://www.ohlone.edu/board-trustees/policies-administrative-procedures/ap-3050-institutional-code-ethics-administrative) Take time to read it! It includes embracing and supporting our values, sustaining high professional standards, promoting equal opportunity, protecting assets, and demonstrating environmental stewardship.

This new year let us choose to be even more kind, more respectful, more supportive and more accepting of each other. We have been through a lot both personally and professionally. Let’s go into this new year as a better, stronger and more united Ohlone!

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

END OF JUNE NEWS!

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Shairon Zingsheim
Vice President, Human Resources and Training