January 19, 2022

All –

As announced at the start of Spring Semester 2022, PVCC will return to in-person learning on January 24. This means that those classes originally scheduled to be in person, but which were remote from January 10–23 will return to being in person on Monday, January 24. Online anytime and online scheduled time classes will continue to be online. All classes with start dates after January 24 will be in person if originally scheduled in that mode.

The current PVCC policy requiring everyone to wear a face cover (mask) when indoors in any PVCC owned or leased facility remains in effect. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the mask policy. Without a mask requirement, we could not return to in-person learning due to the highly contagious nature of the Omicron variant. PVCC faculty and staff are asked to enforce the mask policy with no exceptions.

Our move to online learning the first two weeks of the semester has been very successful. We are receiving five to six reports of COVID positive faculty, staff, or students each day. That means that fewer than 100 cases will be reported during these two weeks out of 4,500 students and 500 faculty and staff. That is a reported positivity rate of only 2%, which is outstanding. We will continue to monitor the rate of COVID infections among faculty, staff, and students. If we see a significant outbreak, we will take the necessary actions to protect the health of the PVCC community.

I am certain that our students never envisioned their college education like this. COVID has forced us to alter the way we deliver courses and student success. It has created uncertainty and anxiety as we deal with the constantly changing environment in which we live. PVCC has made adjustments in order to provide quality instruction and avoid delaying our students’ education while implementing policies based on the science to keep all of us as safe as reasonably possible.

The American public and our local, state and national leaders are divided on what is the best course of action for schools and colleges. I certainly understand if you disagree with the actions we are taking at PVCC. But please be aware that these decisions are not taken lightly, and they are made based on our belief as to what is best for the entire PVCC community.

Please take appropriate precautions to stay safe. I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated and boosted. Please wear your mask. While staying safe, continue to focus on your responsibilities as students and as PVCC faculty and staff. Working together, we will get through this. I know that I can count on you.

Frank Friedman
PVCC President