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Subject: Renegade Roundup..... First day of classes
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 7:22:44 PM
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Renegade Roundup

First day of classes

August 24, 2020

Dear colleagues:

Welcome to Fall 2020!

Good evening, Renegades! I hope you had a great first day of classes and you're ready for the start of a new year. After a long summer of planning for a successful fall 2020, I enjoyed a few quiet moments while visiting the campus this morning. Though all 40,000 of our students and over 2,000 employees are #IntTogether only virtually, I felt a buzz of energy as we launched our first day of the 2020-21 academic year. It's going to be a great year.

#RenegadeStrong #WeAreBC

The Renegade Family is united in our goal to serve our students and each other online - whether it's academic support and completion coaching teams helping our students refine their learning, or our Academic Technology specialists helping faculty tailor their lesson plans for the most effective virtual platform.

This morning, [Zoom was experiencing outages across the country](#) that affected some of our first classes of the semester. By 10:30 a.m., Zoom was fully operational and students were able to access their class meetings. If you experience any further issues with accessing the Zoom platform, please contact IT and/or the Academic Technology team. Thank you to **Todd Coston** and **Bill Moseley** for working quickly to notify students of the outage and provide updates via email and social media. #WeAreBC #IntTogether

Enrollment Update

The August 19, 2020 KCCD IR Report shows BC closing in on fall 2019 enrollment.

Opening Week

During Flex Week, we aired the first three parts of our Opening Week 2020 festivities live on Zoom and YouTube. The Renegade family enjoyed a poignant collection of remarks from our faculty and staff leadership, updates about our Measure J construction projects and major initiatives for the year, and inspirational music by our talented performing arts students.

Our last two Opening Week videos air on Tuesday, August 24 and Thursday, August 26 at 4 p.m. Stay tuned for an email from Jennifer Serratt with the registration link and plan to join us as we celebrate the start of the 2020-2021 academic year.

#RenegadeStrong #IntTogether: BC & COVID

As we start the new year, I want to remind everyone that we have a shared responsibility to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The individual shares a significant burden of this responsibility to our collective public health and safety, and we all have an obligation to hold ourselves personally accountable for following the proper guidelines to protect our campus and our families.

Currently, BC is only open for **essential courses only**, meaning select courses in the Public Safety or Health Sciences pathways, courses that lead to employment in critical areas such as construction or HVAC, courses at the end of a certificate or degree path that are not offered frequently, or courses with Student Learning Outcomes that **absolutely** cannot be met through a virtual environment. Over the summer, we've developed a process to determine face-to-face needs and ensure that health and safety protocols are in place for essential activities. For more information, [read our Safe Campus Modified Reopening Plan](#).

COVID-19 Updates

Governor Newsom's daily addresses over the last week have been primarily focused on the [wildfires that are raging across California](#), but he continues to provide updates on the state's COVID-19 response. On Monday's broadcast, he announced that the state will be releasing new guidelines later this week for counties that have been taken off the state's monitoring list. Kern County is still firmly on the monitoring list for California, as the data points below will indicate.

Positivity Rates from Covid19.CA.gov:

[The State of California's COVID-19 county reporting dashboard](#) lists reporting statistics over a 14-day period. A table with the comparison of test positivity rates from several counties on the monitoring list since my last Roundup is below.

	August 16 Roundup			August 24 Roundup		
	New cases per 100k	New deaths Per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	New deaths Per 100k	Test positivity rate
California	280.1	4.7	6.4%	276.9	4.5	6.4%
Kern County	597.7	6.5	14.3%	585.0	8.4	16.7%
Kings County	697.4	5.1	13.7%	687.8	7.7	15.1%
Fresno County	499.4	6.3	12.2%	537.7	5.3	13.3%
San Bernardino	373.6	6.8	10%	408.1	6.0	11.3%
LA County	292.7	5.6	4.3%	242.1	5.6	3.9%

**Stats are based on the previous 14-day period*

Johns Hopkins Dashboard:

As of 3:00 p.m. on August 24, the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows more than 5.7 million total COVID-19 cases in the US. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers from August 10 - 14 days ago.

	August 10, 2020	August 24, 2020	Difference	Percentage
World	20,001,019	23,522,806	3,521,787	17.6%
U.S.	4,951,851	5,730,294	778,443	15.7%
California	561,911	674,392	112,481	20%
Kern	24,450	28,244	3,794	15.5%

Jacob Blake

Before I sign off, I'd be remiss if I did not make note of the tragic incident in Wisconsin yesterday. At about 5pm on Sunday evening, a video of a [police officer shooting Jacob Blake of Kenosha, Wisconsin](#), 7 times in the back went viral. As protests again erupted just hours ahead of our first day of classes, I felt the weight our students, faculty, and staff would carry into this semester. Our Criminal Justice faculty working with Tommy Tunson and BPD are creating professional development opportunities for Public Safety and First Responders. Also, I feel comfort knowing that in difficult times, Renegades take care of one another. Let's head into this semester with open minds, open hearts, and a commitment to our shared core values.

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft apart distance, wash your hands, let's slow down the spread.

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
sonya

[See all issues of Renegade Roundup online](#)