

**Subject:** Update on HACC's Pandemic Planning – Aug. 5, 2020  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:54:37 PM

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Good afternoon, colleagues!

Our students and their success are our top priorities.

**To help students reach their goals and succeed, the HACC Foundation will award 100 \$500 tuition giveaways to current HACC students for the fall 2020 semester.** Students are asked to read and complete this [form](#) in its entirety by Aug. 10, 2020, to be entered for a chance to earn FREE money. Students will be randomly selected and required to submit a thank-you letter to the HACC Foundation.

As you have come to expect, following are the commonly asked questions and our responses to them. Please note that some of these responses are tentative and subject to change.

If you have additional questions and you do not see the answers on the website, please submit the online form located on the website. Please see the webpage section called "[Information for Employees](#)." If you would like to see the information being communicated to students, please see the webpage called "[Information for Students](#)."

We will continue to update you regularly via email, the aforementioned website and Zoom sessions.

Thank you!

John J. "Ski" Sygielski, MBA, Ed.D.  
Pronouns: He, Him, His  
President & CEO  
HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College

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#### 1. **What is the CDCA Clinical Exam?**

The [Commission on Dental Competency Assessments](#) (CDCA) is an agency that administers a patient treatment clinical examination to dental hygiene graduates. This exam is a requirement in order to be eligible for licensure through the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry.

Each year, the CDCA uses the HACC Dental Clinic to administer the exam. It was initially scheduled for May 2020 but was rescheduled to this month because of COVID-19.

All students, employees, scheduled patients and CDCA staff must complete the [online Wellness Screening form](#) within 24 hours prior to **every** arrival to campus. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival, and hands will be sanitized. Walk-through traffic will be limited to one-way to maintain social distancing.

Extensive infection control protocols will be followed. Graduates and employees have

gone through extensive infection control training endorsed by the federal Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration. CDCA staff are licensed dentists and dental hygienists who have also gone through infection control training.

Anyone on campus for the exam must follow the HACC Dental Clinic's infection control protocols and wear required personal protective equipment. The director of dental hygiene will be present to ensure all safety measures are maintained.

HACC's campuses remain closed until Dec. 31, 2020. However, this event was approved because the examination is crucial for our graduates to receive their dental hygiene licensure.

- 2. The HACC [website](#) indicates that about \$9 million was awarded to our College, and about \$4.5 million was directly distributed to the students. How was the other \$4.5 million spent?**

HACC has been allocated approximately \$9 million. Of that money, half had to be used for emergency financial aid grants paid directly to students. This portion has been completed. The other half is meant to support the direct costs to the College related to COVID-19 and support the expenses necessary to expand remote learning operations to meet the increased demand.

Based on the CARES Act guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the institutional funds are not to be used for direct payroll provisions as a result of employee lost benefits or wages. HACC continues to evaluate how to deploy the institutional portion of the CARES Act funds in ways that meet these guidelines.

- 3. From my understanding, this institution has made the decision to freeze the annual increase of charges, which is very honorable. However, I was surprised by my discovery that HACC is still charging its students for services that they are no longer offering. How is this not fraudulent? If everything has gone remote/virtual for this upcoming semester, why are students being charged a fee for activities, technology, campus revitalization and capital outlay?**

The HACC technology fee supports the College's overall network and technology infrastructure. This infrastructure includes hardware, software and services required to connect cloud services, wired and wireless networks and telephones. In addition, the technology fee also supports physical and virtual server replacements, expansion of file storage solutions, data backups, enhancements to instructional systems and laptop and desktop computer replacements. The transition to remote instruction has led to an increased demand for network and technology infrastructure, including the expansion of virtual private networks, remote desktop servers, virtual desktop infrastructure, expanded software licenses, expanded need for mobile technology and increased need for peripheral devices (such as webcams and headsets) that are all required to support the delivery of remote instruction.

The student activity fees support remote and virtual programming. Some examples from the spring and summer semesters are music bingo and trivia with prizes, escape room challenges with prizes, Zoom student hang-outs, Zoom lunch and learning with guest speakers and caricature artists. Additionally, these activity fees also sponsor our remote programs such as the free Rita's this Thursday for Student Appreciation Day

and the Groceries on the Go initiative.

Although the College is currently operating remotely, it still maintains all the systems and routine maintenance functions necessary to operate properly until we return to our campuses. The work for many people at the College had to shift to developing and preparing for this new reality.

**Quote:** *Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way. ~Viktor E. Frankl*