



# Angelina College

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March 3, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Although the last twelve months have been extremely challenging for everyone in the Angelina College family, we collectively continue to be a source of hope and opportunity for our communities and students. Moreover, our hearts go out to the members of the AC family who have experienced the tragic loss of loved ones, often without the normal support of their faith community and family. In this difficult time, when we are already physically and emotionally strained, the recent winter storm and related service outages were particularly stressful and painful for many of us. In appreciation for the additional work and can-do spirit of Angelina College employees during the COVID-19 emergency, the Board of Trustees recently approved spending nearly \$500,000 to pay a \$1,500 stipend to each full-time employee and a \$500 stipend to each regular part-time employee. The college is processing the payment of these stipends; we anticipate you will receive it later this month.

The professionalism, perseverance, and ingenuity demonstrated by people throughout the college is truly inspiring. I am deeply grateful for each of you, and I am proud to serve with you. Yet, even the strongest and most capable of us need help from time to time. If you need assistance with work or encouragement and support on a tough day, please reach out to your supervisor, division leader, or Human Resources.

Governor Abbott issued a new order effective March 10, 2021, addressing mandated public health measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the new order, the Governor encourages institutions of higher education to establish operating standards similar to those required by the Texas Education Agency for school districts. Currently, the TEA standards include provisions for the use of face-coverings and social distancing, facility use guidelines, and quarantine protocols that mirror our current practices. We will, of course, continue to monitor the TEA standards as well as guidance from local and national experts.

The AC administration, the college's COVID Team, and the Board of Trustees as appropriate, will endeavor to make adjustments to the College's operating standards and protocols as conditions and expert guidance warrant. Given the disruption to students that would be caused by changing how the college delivers courses (e.g., online, in-person, hybrid), I do not anticipate shifting any course section from online or hybrid delivery to in-person delivery this semester. As I indicated in January, based on current trends and guidance, I anticipate returning to pre-COVID operating protocols by Fall 2021.

Again, thank you for the good work you do for Angelina College. I look forward to the bright day ahead when we will be able to return to normalcy.

Sincerely and respectfully,

*Mike*

Dr. Michael J. Simon, President

*Angelina College . . . . A Great Place To Start*