

**From:** [DIST Public Affairs](#)  
**To:** [DIST Public Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** Special Message from the Chancellor | July 8, 2020  
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**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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## Special Message | July 8, 2020

From the Office of Chancellor John Weispfenning, Ph.D.

Late Monday, July 6, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued guidance requiring international students attending colleges and universities in the fall to enroll in classes with face-to-face instruction. This federal guidance seemingly conflicts with state and local rules designed to protect public health.

I want to assure our concerned faculty, classified staff, and managers that the Coast District is exploring all available options to continue international student participation in Coastline, Golden West, and Orange Coast programs. Specifically, the goal is to allow our students to continue to live and learn in the U.S. as we work with state and local partners to address these federal requirements.

All of us, particularly our international teams at the Colleges, have worked very hard to welcome students from outside of the U.S.—creating the epitome of a win-win. We provide an excellent education while international students enrich the learning experience through cultural exchange.

In addition, international students pay the full cost of their education without federal, state, or local subsidy. These funds help pay for expanded educational opportunities that also benefit our local students. Additionally, millions in student rent payments, living expenses, and sales tax further sustain our local economies and public services.

International students create learning opportunities for local students, advance the quiet diplomacy of education, and bring new resources into our colleges and communities. We know this, and we continue to pursue a future of peace and prosperity through understanding and inclusion.

Be well,  
John

John Weispfenning, Ph.D.  
Chancellor

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