

2020 - A Year to Remember!

COVID 19 at DMACC and a Derecho, A Midwest hurricane

Submitted by Judith Vogel

Sources: DMACC Daily, KCCI News

Todd Jones, Dir. of Marketing & Public Relations

Wade Robinson, Dir. of Student Development

In February of 2020, Americans started to hear about a strange new virus that was spreading around the world. Initially, it was thought to have started in the open markets in Wuhan, China. Later there were scientists who believe the virus started in a laboratory in Wuhan, China. Eventually the virus became known as the Corona virus or Covid 19. The virus impacted over 213 countries. As of August 13, 2020, there were over 21 million confirmed cases in these countries with nearly 752,000 deaths. Since testing was limited in many countries, the actual number could have been much higher. By the end of 2020, the United states reported over 20 million cases and almost 350,000 deaths. Iowa was reporting over 282,000 cases. Of that number, 241,000 people recovered, and over 3,900 died.

On March 11, DMACC announced to its 23,260 students that it would cancel face-to-face classes March 23-28 following spring break and then would shift many of its face-to-face classes to online classes by the end of March. Only online classes would resume on March 23. The college then announced stages of reopening the college. March 13 to May 18, only essential personnel were allowed on campus. There was no public access to campus. May 18 to May 29, no labs or CTE would be allowed except for spring carry over for students needing to complete courses. Cyber security was heightened for all those working from home.

Moving classes typically taught in classroom settings to full online formats created challenges for faculty. Professors and instructors found great help from fellow DMACC colleagues, professional education organizations, IT personnel, and online blogs, chats, and newsletters.

On April 30, students were informed that graduation ceremonies would be canceled on all campuses. President Denson signed letters of congratulation to over 2700 graduates. Students became creative with ways to celebrate their success. Some had virtual parties, some had drive-by parties, and some made announcements on social media.

Summer classes which were taught before July 1 were to be only in online format with the possibility of face-to-face and blended returning after July 1. However, classes remained online for the entire summer. DMACC waived some fees for online classes and web blended. Some essential staff worked on campus, but most staff worked from home.

Thoughts were already turning toward fall semester. On May 11, President Denson announced a Guarantee Refund of tuition if classes for fall would be canceled. It was decided that DMACC would offer an assortment of learning options: face-to-face, blended, and variations of online classes for fall 2020. Denson added, "Students will have greater flexibility this year to choose the learning environment that's right for them. Our goal is to make the fall semester as stress free, safe, and rewarding for them as possible." On June 23, President Denson said that the health and safety of

students, faculty, and staff would be the top priority. Expanded cleaning protocols, safeguards, signage, time between classes, smaller classes, physical distancing, and required facemasks would be implemented for fall semester. On August 25, President Denson sent a message to fall semester students. The following article was posted in the DMACC Daily:

[DMACC President Rob Denson Sends Welcome Message To Students](#)

Fall classes at DMACC start districtwide on Wednesday amid pandemic

- **Message from President Denson outlines multiple learning options for students this fall.**
- **The President offers advice for student success.**
- **He emphasizes students be careful on and off campus, wear face masks, maintain physical distancing and wash hands often.**

Fall semester classes at [DMACC](#) begin tomorrow — Wed., Aug. 26th — and earlier today, DMACC President Rob Denson sent a welcome message to all DMACC students wishing everyone a successful academic year and encouraging students to stay safe.

The email sent by Denson outlines the challenges of COVID-19 and how DMACC will conduct classes during this pandemic. His message informs students as to how they can meaningfully engage with DMACC this semester.

Included in the message are two videos: In the first, Denson offers advice, motivation and resources to promote student success this fall, while the second video focuses on health and safety issues important to students, faculty and staff.

The communication (shown below) was sent to nearly 15,000 full and part-time students who will be taking classes both online and/or at one of DMACC's 12 campuses and learning centers across Central Iowa.

Here is the message sent to all DMACC students today:

(DMACC Daily)

To: All DMACC Students

DMACC will offer a number of learning options this Fall so that you can safely begin or continue your College education. We are excited to start another term even with the challenges we all face. I can assure you that there is no better faculty and staff team than here at DMACC.

[Click here](#) or press play below to watch a short video from me:

How can YOU help ensure your own success?

#1: Please be VERY careful what you do when you are on or off Campus. COVID-19 is extremely contagious, and I personally know of several friends and students who can't believe they became infected.

Know that if you are exposed or test positive, whether with symptoms or not, you must quarantine. This can seriously impact your ability to complete your class or program. DON'T waste your time and money by not being careful.

Now is the time to take every precaution you can so that your future is not delayed. No risk is worth it!

#2: Wear face coverings whenever you are in any building, on or off Campus, or where you might be within six feet of any person, anywhere. Masks do work!

#3: Maintain physical distancing. I find myself up backing away from many people.

#4: Wash your hands, even when you don't think you need to do so. This will help you now with COVID-19 and later with the seasonal flu.

[Click here](#) or press play below for another short video I'd like you to watch:

There has never been a better time to get your education so YOU are fully ready for your career when the economy rebounds.

DMACC is very proud to be a part of your future.

As they say, Be Safe, and...



Sincerely,

Rob Denson, DMACC President

P.S. - We have already seen hundreds of students, all over the country, who went to college and never thought they'd be the ones to catch COVID-19 from a party where mask use and distancing were not followed. Please don't let this happen to you!

Wade Robinson, Director of Student Development, stated, "The virus required students to complete more program requirements in a virtual manner. Anyone at a DMACC campus had to maintain a 6' distance from others whenever possible, always wear a mask when indoors and when 6' could not be

maintained outdoors, and wash hands and use hand sanitizer frequently. Mask wearing is critical and has been an adjustment for everyone impacted.” As the fall semester progressed and the virus continued to spread, most on-campus classes were completed by Thanksgiving so students would not have to return to campus following the break. The following announcement was made regarding Spring Semester:

DMACC Changes Start Date of Spring Semester and Cancels Spring Break

Spring Classes to Start One Week Later than Planned Due to Worsening Pandemic

- **Spring semester credit classes will now start on January 19, 2021.**
- **DMACC is canceling Spring Break for the first time in school history.**
- **DMACC President Rob Denson said protecting the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and communities is the College's top priority.**

Adaptations to College Experience Caused by Covid-19

Due to the corona virus, many of the colleges services and activities needed to change to accommodate students, faculty and staff. For example, the DMACC Foundation's 5K Race was changed to a virtual competition, Boone campus had drive-up food distribution, and the Ankeny summer plays were conducted on radio. Other changes were listed in the DMACC Daily:

[DMACC Student Life: FREE 'Welcome Week' Virtual Events To Feature Popular Comedians & Award-Winning Mentalist](#)

[DMACC Libraries Now Offering Campus Pickup for Items From Physical Collections](#)

[Academic Support & Tutoring For DMACC Students Now Available Remotely](#)

[Participate \(Virtually!\) in the DMACC 7th Annual 'In My Boots' 5K Ruck Run](#)

The [DMACC Perry Van Kirk Career Academy](#) has officially joined Twitter and Instagram!

[DMACC CEO Golf Invitational Raises \\$350,000 Despite Not Having a Social Day of Golfing](#)

[DMACC Online Tutoring Offering Assistance for Students with an Upcoming Speech or Class Presentation](#)

[Upcoming Informational Sessions: UNI@DMACC Online Bachelor's Degree Completion Options](#)

[FREE Online Workshop for Students: 'Microsoft Word for Beginners' with Prof. Loise Gakinya on Sept. 23rd](#)

[Voices of Diversity Virtual Event Series: 'Arts & Music' Learning Session on Sept. 24th](#)

[ICI Bistro to Open on Sept. 23rd](#)

[DMACC Libraries Physical Collections Now Available Sept 22](#)

[DMACC Women's Golf Team Wins NIACC Fall Invitational](#)

[DMACC Men's Golf Team Wins NIACC Fall Invitational & Faces Tough Competition at 'The W at the Preserve' Meet](#)

[Matt Sprengeler to Present at National Conference - virtually rather than in Puerto Rico](#)

[Iowa Communication Annual Conference to be held in online sessions](#)

[DMACC Ankeny Theatre \(DAT\) Staged Reading Series Performances in October](#)

[Upcoming Info Sessions: UNI@DMACC Online Bachelor's Degree Completion Options](#)

[DMACC Plans To Resume its Study Abroad Program in Feb. 2022](#)

[Oct. 29th: DMACC to Host FREE Virtual Multicultural Night—Latino Student Session](#)

[Oct. 29th: Voices of Diversity 'Race Matters: BIPOC Communities & Mental Health' Learning Session](#)

[Nov. 11th: Nominations Due for DMACC Pioneers Holiday Assistance for Students](#)

[#GetOutTheVote: Voter Registration Info Sessions & \[dmacc.edu/vote\]\(https://dmacc.edu/vote\)](#)

[DMACC Ankeny Theatre \(DAT\) Staged Reading Series Performances in October](#)

[Nov. 5th: DMACC to Host FREE Virtual Multicultural Night—Black Student Session](#)

[Nov. 6th: Virtual Discover DMACC Pathways Event—Information Technology](#)

[Nov. 17th: DMACC & BVU Virtual Human Services Panel Event](#)

[Nov. 5th: DMACC to Host FREE Virtual Multicultural Night—Black Student Session](#)

[Nov. 20th: DMACC Spanish Virtual Conversation Group](#)

[Nov. 20th: Deadline to Submit Photos for DMACC Honors COVID-19 Photo Contest](#)

[Dec. 14th: DMACC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Virtual Town Hall Session](#)

[Holiday Recipe Sharing with the DMACC Pioneers](#)

[Dec. 3rd: DMACC Honors COVID-19 Photo Contest Virtual Awards Ceremony](#)

[DMACC Athletics Announces New Way Fans Can Support the Bears this Spring](#)

[DMACC AAC-DOT Offering FREE Online ALEKS Assessment Workshop](#)

EKD Center 'Toys for Tots' Curbside Pickup Underway; Donations Are Still Being Accepted

Honolulu Student Wins DMACC Boone Campus 'Quaran-Tee' Design Contest

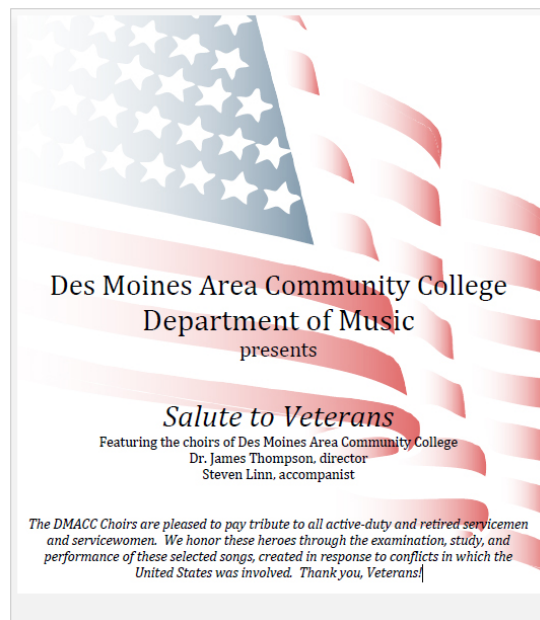


Heidi Hoffbauer of Hawaii created the winning design

- Despite living more than 3,900 miles from campus, a Hawaii student recently won a contest to design a t-shirt about the DMACC Boone Campus and COVID-19.
- The contest is also a fundraiser for Boone County Emergency Services.
- The winning t-shirt design featured a bear paw graphic similar to the DMACC Bear mascot.

Hoffbauer's design replicates a bear paw from the DMACC Bear mascot. At the bottom of the design, are the words "Bear With Us!" In between is the cloud of words associated with the DMACC Boone Campus, including "intramurals," "sports," "student housing" and "in my boots," with a #quarantine hashtag prominently displayed in the center.

DMACC Department of Music Presents 'Salute to Veterans'



Nov. 23rd: DMACC Criminal Justice Club Virtual Meeting

[WATCH: DMACC Ankeny Campus Theatre Performs 'Romeo & Internet'](#)

[Nov. 23rd: DMACC Criminal Justice Club Virtual Meeting](#)

[Dec. 4th: Virtual Discover DMACC Pathways Event—Pre-Engineering](#)

ICI Baking & Pastry Arts Students Holding Thanksgiving Dinner Roll Fundraiser



Proceeds will help provide Thanksgiving meals to 25 Jasper County families in need

- **Orders are being accepted online until 12 p.m. on Nov. 23rd.**
- **Dinner rolls can be pre-ordered by the dozen in either white or whole wheat; cost is \$6 per dozen.**
- **Contactless order pick-up will be available on Wed., Nov. 25th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DMACC Newton Campus, and from 2-4 p.m. at the DMACC Urban Campus in Des Moines.**

VOLUME 1

AUGUST 24, 2020

DMACC WEST NEWSLETTER

SPONSORED BY CLUB WEST

Welcome to the fall 2020 semester, DMACC West Campus!

Given the current pandemic and many classes being shifted to an online format, [Club West](#) (our Student Activities Council) will look a little different this fall. The [DMACC West Newsletter](#) is sponsored by Club West and is here to serve as a way to build community and connection. Each newsletter will include information about FREE virtual events, important academic dates, mental health tips and other great information!

Dec. 5th: Greater Des Moines Conference for Young Men of Color



DMACC students are encouraged to attend the upcoming [Greater Des Moines Conference for Young Men of Color](#), which will be held virtually from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Sat., Dec. 5th**. There is **NO COST** to attend.

DMACC is a co-sponsor of the online conference, which will provide tools, information, mentorship and resources that encourage young men, age 12 to 21, to find hope in their strengths. Presenters will include a mix of educators, corporate professionals and community leaders focusing on topics such as leadership, team building, academic achievement, self-worth, financial responsibility, goal setting, cultural competency/awareness, emotional intelligence and obligations of citizenship.

DMACC Student Life Activities

The [DMACC Student Life Office](#) is teaming up with the Student Life and Activities Offices at community colleges across Iowa to offer an exciting fall semester of fun and enlightening virtual programs!

Stay tuned for more details about each program in the coming weeks. And don't forget to sign up to receive event info and livestream links by registering at www.dmacc.edu/students/Pages/sac-events.aspx.

AUGUST

Tues., Aug. 25th: Mentalist Brian Imbus

Wed., Aug. 26th: Comedian Mark Poolos

Thur., Aug. 27th: Comedian Justin Ruppel

SEPTEMBER

Tues., Sept. 1st: Leadership Speaker Harvie Herrington
"Thriving Through Adversity"

Wed., Sept. 2nd: Mental Health Speaker Jessi Beyer
"Empower! Educate! Inspire!"

Wed., Sept. 9th: Substance Abuse Speaker
"Trends and Using"

Mon., Sept. 14th: Beat The Blame Game

Wed., Sept. 16th: Constitution Day with Larry Bradley

Mon., Sept 21st: Musician Rocky Peters

Tues, Sept. 22nd: Comedian Marcus Monroe

Wed., Sept. 23rd: Band *Hold For Swank*

Mon, Sept. 28th: Speaker Carson King

Wed., Sept. 30th: Mexican Band *Sones de Mexico*

OCTOBER

Thur., Oct. 1st: Speaker Adam Carroll
"Mastery of Money"

Mon, Oct. 5th: Speaker TJ Warren
"How to Find Your Purpose"

Thur., Oct. 8th: Health and Wellness Speaker
"Stress Test"

Tues., Oct. 13th: Mentalist Christopher Carter

Wed., Oct. 14th: Leadership Speaker Harvie Herrington
"Self-Leadership: Putting Your Personality to Work"

Tues., Oct. 20th: Leadership Workshop with Tawan Perry

Wed., Oct. 21st: LGBTQ Speaker Mikah Meyer

Wed., Oct. 28th: Human iPod John Rush

Thur., Oct. 29th: Mentalist/Illusionist Wayne Hoffman
"Distant Deceptions"

NOVEMBER

Thur., Nov. 5th: Leadership Speaker Troy VandeLune
"Leading Through Adversity: Turning your Pain to Gain"

Tues., Nov. 10th: Musician Jason Walsmith from *The Nadas*
Acoustic and Storytelling Show

Thur., Nov. 12th: Leadership Speaker Troy VandeLune
"Leading Through Adversity: Remembering Your Whys"

Tues., Nov. 17th, Leadership Speaker Harvie Herrington
"Dream Building: What's My Gift"

Thur., Nov. 19th, Mentalist Sean Bott

DECEMBER

Tues., Dec. 8th: Leadership Speaker Harvie Herrington
"Making Your Goals Work for You"

Wed., Dec. 9th: Trivia Game-Nerdology
Test Your Knowledge!

Todd Jones said that when President Denson started talking about the potential impact of the virus on DMACC in February, he didn't realize how disruptive it would be to everybody on campus. "Marketing plans had to be thrown out, and we had to work quickly to make changes. Everyone at the college pulled together in the same direction." Jones described the cooperation across the college as "stellar." Enrollment at all community colleges across the state decreased – some by as much as 10%. DMACC saw a decrease as well, about 8%, but it was less than at other community colleges.

Wade Robinson, Director of Student Development, stated, "COVID required students to complete more program requirements in a virtual manner. Anyone at a DMACC campus had to maintain a 6' distance from others whenever possible, always wear a mask when indoors and when 6' could not be maintained outdoors, and wash hands and use hand sanitizer frequently. Mask wearing has been critical and has been an adjustment for everyone impacted."

Contributions of DMACC family to Fighting the Covid Virus.

Jack Thompson, Emeritus Professor of Industrial-electro Mechanical Technology at Carroll Campus, created face shields for his son Cory and Cory's colleagues at St Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll where Cory is an ER nurse. Provost Dr. Joel Lundstrom supported his efforts.

Nicole Nichols, a DMACC adjunct nursing instructor, went to New York and worked with Covid-19 patients in 12-hour shifts.

Pioneers Adapt to Life With Covid



President Dana Zeiser led the Pioneers Kick-off Social. President Denson and Tara Connolly gave updates on the College and Foundation. Past president Sue Gibbons was recognized as Outstanding Pioneer, and several Pioneers were recognized for their volunteer work with the Pioneers. Snack boxes were enjoyed by the attendees.



DMACC Pioneers held its Fall Kick-off as a Social at the Bandshell in Ankeny rather than holding its annual indoor banquet.

Pioneers fall monthly meetings changed to Zoom meetings which included a photography presentation, “Let’s Go Traveling,” by Steve Gibbons, an architectural presentation, “Lustrom Homes of Des Moines,” by Steve Stimmel, AIA, a Veterans’ program, “Iowa and the Great War,” by Leo Landis, State Curator of the History Society of Iowa, and a Holiday Memory social with a special visit from Mrs. Claus!

Besides holding monthly meetings by Zoom, the DMACC Pioneers met its fundraising goals, made phone calls to hundreds of Pioneers throughout the country, held a book sale with funds going to student scholarships, gave Holiday gift cards to needy students, started a collection of Holiday recipes, and assisted with evaluation of student applications for scholarships.

#CoverYourBearFace To Help Keep Our DMACC Community Safe

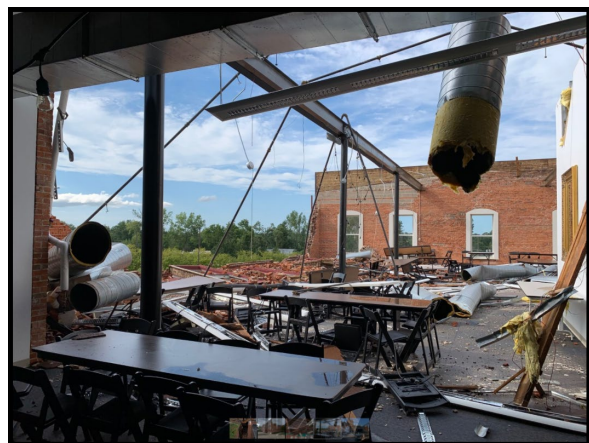


Covid-19 Efforts Challenged by Derecho

On August 10, as preparations were being finalized to begin the 2020 fall semester with on-campus, blended, and online courses, a rare “Midwest hurricane,” called a derecho, blew through the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Sustained winds of 110 mph were clocked that lasted half an hour causing significant damage to homes, businesses, trees, and crops. Most school districts in the area were forced to delay the start of fall school by a few days to a couple weeks to allow time for building repairs and removal of downed trees.

Todd Jones, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, reported the following damage and provided pictures:

- *A roof and severe damage to two historic brick Maytag buildings in Newton*
- *A dugout on the Boone Campus was severely damaged*
- *A few trees and many tree limbs across the College were damaged and broken*





Questions on Impact of Covid-19 Moving Forward

The Covid pandemic had immediate impact on DMACC which the College addressed quickly and effectively. However, questions have been raised as to the ways this experience will change education at DMACC moving forward.

How will enrollment at the College be affected?

Will classes forced to go to an online format stay on an online format, or will on-campus classes return?

Will there be more blended classes offered?

Will teaching strategies and pedagogy rely more on technology?

Will online learning be as successful as on-campus learning?

Will students be adequately prepared to enter the workforce?

Will students learn the “soft skills” necessary for success without face-to-face interaction?

How will campus facilities be used if there is a significant movement to online classes?

How will distance learning impact student opportunities to participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities?

How will the pandemic impact College fundraising?

How will the pandemic impact student scholarships and student loans?

Will new courses and new programs need to be developed?

How will DMACC be marketed and how will students be recruited?

How will DMACC set itself apart from other learning institutions?

These questions and many more will need to be addressed by Administration, Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students.

All Spring semester classes for 2021 will be taught online with the exception of biology labs.