



Friday, April 24, 2020 | 8 a.m. MT

Colleagues,

Several weeks ago, I had a meeting with the President's Budget Advisory Council (PBAC). My team and I presented university budget scenarios, based on a number of uncertainties, including how much funding we will receive from the State of Colorado and how students and their families may make decisions about attending college during a pandemic. Ultimately, the financial future I presented was not hopeful. My words exacerbated fear and anxiety.

Like many of you, I have never let fear get in my way. In fact, my fears have often motivated me. When I was a professor, I remember telling my students that if they let the math (specifically, their finances) influence their decision making too much, they'd never go far, because they'd simply never have enough money. I stressed the importance of balancing your financial realities with your gut instincts.

It's time to trust our instincts.

In this time of uncertainty, I have never been more certain about who we are as an institution, what we stand for, and what we can do together. Look everything we just accomplished: we turned into an on-line university – almost overnight. We moved to remote work in less than 48 hours. And today, we successfully completed the spring 2020 semester during a global pandemic. Together, we did what we had to do in order to serve students, our campus, and this community — and it took a lot of work from all of us.

We can solve our budget crisis.

Together, we are going to trust our instincts and our abilities. Rather than beginning the fall semester by planning for a decrease in enrollment, let's defy the odds and find a way to have an increase. Because of our planning, innovation, and hard work, summer enrollments look promising. Why not fall too? Instead of developing a budget based on limited federal funding, we'll work harder to find new federal funding. If state funding is reduced, and it probably will be, we'll develop other solutions.

Nothing we have done together has ever been easy. But we are surrounded by people who care deeply for each other, for our university, for our community, and, most importantly, for our students.

We've got this.

Today, we are developing a plan for a staged return to campus this summer. We will let you know more in my communication on May 22. Also, we hope to communicate our plan for Fall on or before June 15. In the meantime, I want to know your big ideas, the challenges you're facing, and the things that are on your minds as we begin planning for the fall semester. Please take five minutes and complete a short employee survey here: <https://forms.gle/Ktdkp9APzd3tzduG6>. Thank you for a great academic year.

Best wishes,

Dr. Timothy Mottet
CSU Pueblo President