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## 10 Inspiring Community College Responses to COVID-19

Tara Zirkel 3 days ago 2 min read

I'm from Pittsburgh. And, like most Pittsburghers, I have a special place in my heart for Fred Rogers, who has taught all of us how to approach the world with unrelenting kindness. A man that reminds us that when things are hard to "look for the helpers", which is something that I've reflected heavily on these past few weeks. In my 15 year career, I don't know if I've ever seen so much helping, and I'd encourage all of us to take a pause this week to look for the helpers, because I guarantee it will make your day, AND you'll be inspired. Here are a few of my favorite moments from the week.

### Dr. DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President, challenged her son to a pushup contest, and won.

**Dr. DeRionne Pollard** @DRPollard\_MJC

So #ThatDudeWetLiveWith doubted I could pump out 10 before him. Oh, grasshopper, don't come for your mama like that. You clearly need to go back to school... #NoClaimingThatTelework19Lbs

126 1:09 PM - Mar 27, 2020

See Dr. DeRionne Pollard's other Tweets

### Ivy Tech Community College students creating masks for healthcare workers using 3D printing.

**Ivy Tech** @IvyTechCC

Members of the Advanced Automation and Robotics Technology Program at Ivy Tech Evansville are using 3D printers to help make face masks for healthcare workers, nursing home employees and many others. #IvylsWhereYouAre14news.com/2020/03/26/ivy...

Ivy Tech uses 3D printers to make face masks for healthcare wor... Ivy Tech Community College employees are using 3D printers to make face masks for healthcare workers, nursing home employees and other 14news.com

18 9:06 AM - Mar 27, 2020

See Ivy Tech's other Tweets

### Dr. Lori Berquam, Interim President of Mesa Community College, takes us on a walk and reminds us to stay hydrated, be kind to ourselves, and gives an A+ pep talk.

Walk the Mesa Mile with Lori Berquam #1

Watch later Share

Walk the Mesa Mile

### Santa Monica College retweeting Snoop Dogg's reminder to practice good hand hygiene is the kind of content I'm living for right now.

Santa Monica College Retweeted

**Garvin Newsom** @GarvinNewsom - Mar 23

Listen to @SnoopDogg. #StayHomeSaveLives

0:13 162.4K views

spread the word. Stay in the house.

From Office of the Governor of California

281 1.9K 5.8K

### Westmoreland County Community College's remote Spirit Week, complete with a pajama party, shows us we can stay connected if we make time for it!

**Student Life** @StudentLifeWCCC

Put some pep in your classes next week! Join @westmorelandsga as they keep the school spirit alive! Tag them in pictures and join the conversation using #WolfpackChat!

MONDAY PAJAMA DAY  
TUESDAY SCHOOL SPIRIT  
WEDNESDAY SUPERHEROES  
THURSDAY TIE DYE  
FRIDAY CRAZY HAIR HAT

To make zoom classes a little more fun you can participate in our spirit week! For each day you have a zoom class you can dress in the corresponding theme. Also feel free to tag us in pictures showing you participating!

5 8:45 AM - Mar 27, 2020

See Student Life's other Tweets

### Southwestern Community College's thoughtfulness in creating wifi access points for students who might not have reliable connections otherwise.

**SouthwesternCC** @southwesterncc

If you don't have reliable internet access at home, we want you to know about locations on our campuses and in our service area where you can access free WiFi from parking lots and external areas. We will update this page regularly with new information. southwesterncc.edu/external-inter...

JACKSON CAMPUS

2 7:22 AM - Mar 27, 2020

See SouthwesternCC's other Tweets

### California's Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis reminds us that 7 out of 10 of California's nurses, and 8 out of 10 police officers, firefighters and EMTs are trained at a California community college.

**CA Lieutenant Governor** @CALieutenantGovernor

#DidYouKnow 7 out of 10 of California's nurses, and 8 out of 10 police officers, firefighters and EMTs are trained at a California community college? Thank you @CalCommColleges for training so many of those on the front lines, keeping Californians safe.

164 4:01 PM - Mar 25, 2020

56 people are talking about this

### The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges continues to celebrate birthdays, complete with dog gifs, without missing a beat.

**PA Community Colleges** @pacommunitycol

Happy (early) Birthday to @PAHouseGOP member @KailForRep! We wish you a healthy and happy year. 🎉🎂🐶

P.S. Did you know you share a Birthday with @ReallLucyLawless? #HappyBirthday #DYK

1 7:57 AM - Mar 27, 2020

See PA Community Colleges's other Tweets

### Northeast Community College's recognition that #ZoomPets are the glue holding remote life together. I counted 11 pets in this class!

**Northeast Community College** @northeastcc.edu

Checking in with Instructor Matt McCarthy who has a clever way of keeping his Criminal Justice classes interesting... THEMES! Matt shared a photo of a recent Zoom session where he encouraged students to introduce their pets and study partners. #HawkOutCovid #HawksInThisTogether

4 7:00 AM - Mar 27, 2020

See Northeast Community College's other Tweets

### Mott Community College delivers meals to their students as part of their Mott Eats program.

**Mott College** @MottCollege

Volunteers were lined up at 8 am to deliver food for Mott Eats to students in need today. The food pantry, part of the Family Life Center, is delivering food to students during the Coronavirus tele-learning and working time. Yes we are #mottstrong because #mottcares!

11 6:35 AM - Mar 24, 2020

See MottCollege's other Tweets

For every one of these helpers there are a hundred more that are out there. Are your students helping out during this time? If so we'd love to spread the love with their stories. In that same vein, our four-year partners are also offering students scholarships for volunteer work, leadership, and community impact — please reach out to us to talk about [how your students can get involved!](#)

As always, we are so inspired by and thankful for the work you do.

**Tara Zirkel**

Tara Zirkel, Ed.D. is Senior Manager for Community College Partnerships Manager for RaiseMe. Tara has over a decade of student affairs experience in community college settings, including as the Dean of Distance Education and Education Centers at Westmoreland County Community College and as the Director of Admissions, Interim Dean of Students, Adjunct Faculty, and Interim Associate Academic Dean at the Community College of Allegheny County. She holds a doctorate of education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she researched enrollment habits of community college students.

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Frank Castro Summerlin

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Tara Zirkel

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