



Whitman Today

Monday, August 3, 2020

Inclusion Task Force: Action Items to Cabinet



Following several weeks of processing feedback from the online questionnaire, listening sessions and other community input, the Inclusion Task Force has crafted its list of action items that will help move Whitman forward in becoming a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working community. Committee chair Thomas Witherspoon will take the report to President Kathy Murray and the full Cabinet during their retreat for their review.

The action plan will be released to the campus community the week of August 24. The rollout of the included items will require engagement across all facets of the college community, with implementation an iterative process that will be revised and refined as we go.

Witherspoon says, "I want to publicly acknowledge and thank the committee for the countless meetings in small and large groups, with community members and separately analyzing documents. As a committee, we grappled with some tough questions. Your fortitude is appreciated. Because of your efforts, we are moving in a positive direction to becoming a more inclusive community.

"To the campus community, thank you for your vulnerability and trust through this process. We look forward to partnering with everyone to accomplish this next phase of the inclusion journey."

Health Tips

COVID-19 at Whitman

On July 30, President Murray sent a note to campus regarding [the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Whitman community](#). The following safety protocols were put into immediate effect as soon as the college was notified of the case:

- Anyone who had close contact with the individual was informed.
- The individual's work space and other places of interaction were sanitized.
- The county health department was notified and has taken over the contact tracing process.

In the future, announcements about any further cases of COVID-19 at Whitman will not be sent to the general community, but potentially affected individuals will always be notified as part of our safety protocols and contact tracing process.

Coronavirus in Walla Walla

Confirmed cases in Walla Walla County continue to rise, with 95 new confirmed cases over the past week. The [county health department reports](#) 130 residents with active cases of COVID-19. Of the total 420 cases confirmed since tracking began in March, 54 are among people 19 and under, 171 people aged 20-39, 128 people aged 40-59, and 67 people aged 60 and above.

Announcements

Bader and Persico Awarded National Science Foundation Grant
Associate Professor of Geology Nick Bader and Assistant Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies Lyman Persico were awarded a National Science Foundation research grant for their project to reconstruct past terrestrial environments in the Columbia Basin. The grant will provide research experiences for 12 undergraduate students and contribute to improving local geologic knowledge among K-12 teachers and students. By using local field sites and flexible scheduling, this project aims to reduce barriers to entry for students traditionally underrepresented in the geosciences.

Resources

Information Added to Fall 2020 Information Center

The Fall 2020 Information Center continues to be updated with information for students and employees. New resources:

- [Video recording of the Town Hall for Returning Students](#)
- [Video recording of the Town Hall for New Students](#)
- [Technology survey for all returning students](#) to identify possible equipment needs and help professors adjust individual classes to meet student needs (to be completed by Aug. 5).

[Fall 2020 Information Center](#)

Happening This Week

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

10 a.m.

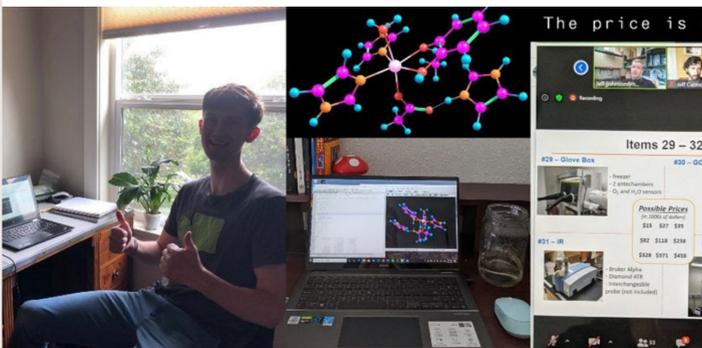
[Faculty and Staff Coronavirus Task Force Open Office Hours](#)

Each Friday at 10 a.m. through July and August, join Whitman's Coronavirus Task Force chair Josh Jensen to ask questions about Whitman's return-to-work and planning for the fall. All faculty and staff are invited to join the [Google Meet](#).

[More Upcoming Events](#)

Have a virtual event you'd like to share with campus? Email the details to whitmantoday@whitman.edu.

Seen Around Campus



Whitman's physical campus may be closed, but the connective spirit and dedication to learning of our community carries on! [As covered in the Whitman Newsroom](#), the Beckman Scholars are leading a group of science students in remotely carrying out research together and supporting each other over the summer.

"Whitman Today" is produced by the Office of Communications and is emailed weekly to Whitman College staff, faculty and students. All times are listed in Pacific Daylight Time. Previous newsletters can be found on the [Whitman Today archive website](#).

To submit items, email whitmantoday@whitman.edu. The deadline for submissions is 12 p.m. Friday for the following week's newsletter.



WHITMAN COLLEGE