

Subject: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Date: Thu 4/2/2020 01:59 PM

Dear Colleagues,

As we wind down the first official week of the spring quarter and enter our third full week of “sheltering in place,” I wanted to express my deep appreciation for how quickly and effectively each and every one of us has adapted to the realities of COVID-19. Working remotely from home, converting all of our face-to-face classes to remote instruction, be they English language programs, critical certificate and MAs program courses, Osher Lifelong Learning workshops and seminars, or support to promising pre-college youth, on every front we have accomplished remarkable things in barely three weeks. This accomplishment is entirely based on the skill, dedication, and ability to adapt to uncertain circumstances that is embodied in each and every one of the people who work for University Extension.

I am acutely aware that many of you have children or aging parents who also need your support and attention at this time. Some of you may also be dealing with your own health issues at this time. Even so, you’ve been there for UCSD. Fortunately, the campus has a number of resources we can tap into to ease the way for you and I encourage you to contact University Extension HR with any special needs or concerns you have.

What is so remarkable to me is that even with all these cross-pressures our 200 plus Extension community mobilized to effect the change that was needed in order to launch a successful spring quarter for our students. We know that our students value what we provide them and recent evaluation reports suggest they are extremely happy with the quality of instruction they are receiving. All of you who are on the front line made sure classes would happen and our instructors were ready to deliver on the promise. We are getting our students enrolled. We’re interacting effectively with our instructors. We're adapting our computer systems. We're having highly effective Zoom meetings among workgroups and at the leadership level. And, communication within Extension and across the campus is aligned as much as it can be given that the news changes every day.

I hope that each of you knows how much not only we but the campus values its career employees. The campus is highly committed to sustaining the talent pool we have as we navigate this crisis and a number of short-term setbacks. Thank you again for being such an extraordinary talent pool. My hope is that in the weeks ahead,

things will get a little less chaotic and demanding and we will, as always, deliver extraordinary value to the diverse range of students and stakeholders we serve.

I am so proud to be a part of this organization and to work with such an amazing array of talent across academic and staff functions.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Walshok". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Mary Walshok
Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Programs
Dean of University Extension
UC San Diego