

TWIN PORTS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION COVID RESPONSES

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The return to campus this fall may have been an unsure one for many college campuses around the country. While The College of St. Scholastica was able to reopen with our new safety precautions, many higher education institutions had less stable beginnings.

Here in the twin ports, however, many institutions were able to have similar plans to reopen. Looking at Lake Superior College (LSC), the University of Wisconsin Superior (UWS) and the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), their methods of how to handle the fall 2020 semester are mostly similar with a few hiccups along the way.



UMD's mascot, Champ, demonstrates the importance of wearing a face mask. Submitted photo.

View the full article at:
<https://www.thescriptnews.com/twin-ports-higher-education-institution-covid-responses-how-area-colleges-prepare-their-campuses-for-returns/>

CENTER FOR EQUAL ACCESS HIRES CSS GRADUATE AND CHANGES LOCATION

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The Center for Equal Access (CEA) has been condensed to one office in the Science Center. This move was done to limit student confusion and to separate Counseling Services from the CEA.

The Center has also had changes occur within the department. Melissa Watschke, formerly the director of the CEA, has moved to a new position as the Title IX coordinator. She is still available to help students and can still be a point of contact for the student body. Jessica Johnston, the Director of Academic Access and Support, reaffirmed this, "She remains within our team; just in a different capacity." The Center is still looking to fulfill the position that Watschke left. Bianca Aspin left her position as access specialist at the College to further her education, and the Center welcomes in Hannah Richards to fill this position.

Hannah Richards is a CSS graduate from the class of 2018. After graduation she attended St. Cloud State University (SCSU) for her master's degree. She currently has a bachelor's in psychology and her master's in rehabilitation counseling. At SCSU she was able to complete an internship with their comparative office. Richards decided that she loved the position, but wanted to be back in Duluth. "After that everything fell into place," said Richards, "I saw the job posting and

Richards would like to implement a new program while at CSS. This will be a college mentorship program where high school students with disabilities are matched with college students with similar or the same disability. The program will help high school students with disabilities to recognize that college is a possible path for themselves.

In her free time Richards enjoys spending time with her family and her dog. During COVID, she spent much more of her time hiking in Duluth with her dog and crafting than she was able to in the past. Richards said, "I enjoy crocheting and making things when I craft." Though the CEA has gone through a series of changes over the summer months, one thing remains the same: the CEA staff is dedicated to helping students with disabilities thrive at CSS.

Miscommunication occurred over the summer months, and the Script would like to clarify that The Center for Equal Access and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are not merging. Their offices remain independent and would like students to know that they are there to help.