



Still Learning during the Pandemic

The Cannon Valley Elder Collegium embarks on our fifth academic term since the arrival of the SARS-Cov2 pandemic in early 2020. Having canceled the entire spring term in March of that year, the Board and staff worked throughout the summer of 2020 to bring all courses for 2020-2021 online via Zoom videoconferencing software.

We learned a great deal during 2020 about what we could manage to deliver and how our students assessed our efforts. For the most part, students who participated in remote courses expressed surprise about the general success of the experience, given muted expectations of the platform. Many were clear about a preference for in-person classes when possible; that sentiment prevails, yet some among us are not yet ready to return to our usual venues, even with (and perhaps because of) mask requirements.

As I reported in the fall newsletter, one of the unexpected benefits of remote teaching was a positive change in our reach as an organization. For the five Zoom courses this past term, we continued to attract students beyond our zip code—and outside of our state!—as well as some who either cannot or prefer not to venture into public just yet. In addition, the four in-person courses filled and prospered, despite one brief quarantine. That said, some of our instructors prefer to wait a bit before committing to in-person courses in future terms.

As the pandemic continues to exert its influence, the CVEC Board has decided that a mixture of in-person and Zoom courses will be our policy this academic year to accommodate as many students as possible. For winter term, you will see six in-person classes, all scheduled for the Village on the Cannon Community Room, and another four offered on Zoom.

As always, the Board and staff look forward to your feedback.